Hafa Adai!

CHCC to distribute COVID-19 vaccine in 3 phases. PAGE 2

Humanities Council donates $10K to 'Racism in America' project. PAGE 3

75¢

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXX, Issue No. 190
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2020
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INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP
Hundreds of volunteers came together on Saipan last Saturday, Sept. 19, to pick up trash and help clean up the shores for the International Coastal Cleanup celebration. IVA MAURIN

EARLY VOTING FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS

21 days for Saipan, NI; 7 days for Tinian, Rota

» Only multi-purpose center confirmed as designated polling place

Villagomez

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The 21-day early voting for Saipan and the Northern Islands will start on Oct. 13, while the seven-day early voting for Tinian and Rota will begin on Oct. 27, according to Commonwealth Election Commission ex-

See VOTING on Page 4

Torres stresses 'great' role of nurses during pandemic

» But Scalia yet to respond to request to assist 17 nurses whose CW permits expired

» CHCC eyes tourist visas for 18 expiring healthcare workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTERS

Stressing that nurses play a great role in the CNMI's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and for the success of healthcare program, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said they are following up with U.S. Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia to expedite the processing of petitions to renew the 17 nurses and one radiologic technologist whose CNMI-Only Transitional Worker permits have expired.

See TORRES on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 23, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,147	43	2,190
Recovered	1,505	2	1,507
Active	603	43	646
Deaths	36	1	37
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			47,001

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	69	0	69
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

IN SCRAPPING 14-DAY MANDATORY QUARANTINE

CHCC considers mental health in isolation period

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The 14-day mandatory quarantine that was implemented by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force was dropped to five to seven days for people

See CHCC on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

200K COVID-19 deaths as Trump vilifies science and prioritizes politics

By JASON DEAREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—"I did the best I could," President Donald Trump said.

Huddled with aides in the West Wing last week, his eyes fixed on Fox News, Trump wasn't talking about how he had led the nation through the deadliest pandemic in a century. In a conversation overheard by an Associated Press reporter, Trump was describing how he'd just

See DEAD on Page 4

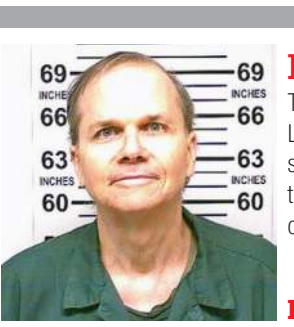
INSIDE

BUSINESS
When you are looking for a restaurant to take your family, friends, or a loved one, Gentle Brook Café and Restaurant should be on top of the list.

PAGE 11

ASIA
India reported more than 83,000 new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, showing some decline after reaching a record a week earlier.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE
The man who killed John Lennon in 1980 says he was seeking glory and deserved the death penalty for a "despicable" act.

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Local

CHCC to distribute COVID-19 vaccine in 3 phases

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The COVID-19 vaccine that hopefully will be available later this year or early next year will be distributed in three phases, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation chief executive officer Esther Muña.

Speaking at the Saipan Rotary Club's general meeting last Sept. 22, Muña stated that the first phase will be for the healthcare workers and frontliners, second, will be the people who are most vulnerable and children, and then lastly, for everyone else.

According to CHCC chief operations officer, Subroto Banerji, the vaccine preparations are in the planning stages, but the goal once the vaccine comes in is not only to prioritize but to push out the vaccine into the community.

Additionally, Banerji said that there will be a vaccine depot where CHCC will be the central place to get the vaccine, but they will are still working with CNMI Homeland Security to come up with a effective, strategic plan. With the 6 feet distance safety measure this vaccine depot will help the hospital to not be overcrowded with patients.

Banerji says that these vaccines will have to be under "different levels of management," which means different temperatures for the vaccine. Banerji said that one vaccine will be -80º, another will be -30º F, and another at room temperature. Given the climate of Saipan, Banerji said that he's interested to see how decisions will be made.

The vaccine, however, might not be a one-time shot and then you're done. Banerji said that they're hearing that the vaccine shots will be taken 28 days apart from each other.

With concerns that the vaccination might be mandatory, Muña says that is a decision Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will have to make. Also, Muña says that they're looking into their council on what they can do because CHCC wants to make sure that the vaccine is safe and effective.

Though CHCC can't force anyone to get the COVID-19 vaccination, Banerji says that they want to utilize the flu vaccine as a way to sensitize the community to value the vaccination. Additionally, CHCC has been doing a stellar job with the immunization program and catching up with childhood vaccinations.

With the huge turnout of childhood vaccine, Banerji says that their planning group is considering to do a community survey because there's an intention to roll out a community-driven communications plan that is centered on science but also recognizes the concerns the community has.

The community surveys will also help CHCC with their vaccination strategies.

Kilili introduces Apprenticeship Expansion Act

Apprenticeship programs in the Marianas would receive new funding under terms of legislation introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on Monday. The Outlying Areas Apprenticeship Expansion Act, H.R. 8320, makes the National Apprenticeship Act applicable in the Marianas and other U.S. insular areas. The result would be new apprenticeships and expansion of existing programs and an estimated $2.8 million over the next five years.

"The National Apprenticeship Act has proven its value, helping grow local economies and ushering young people into successful careers. Yet the Act currently does not support apprenticeships in the Marianas and other insular areas," Sablan said in his introductory statement.

"My bill fixes that inequity, providing the annual funding necessary to support the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the Marianas, as well as in Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa."

Sablan has previously supported expanded apprenticeship programs in the Marianas. Last October, he joined Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wisconsin) in introducing H.R. 4965, the Leveraging Effective Apprenticeships to Rebuild National Skills (LEARNS) Act. The legislation channels technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor to existing apprenticeship programs, such as those at Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas

See KILILI on Page 4

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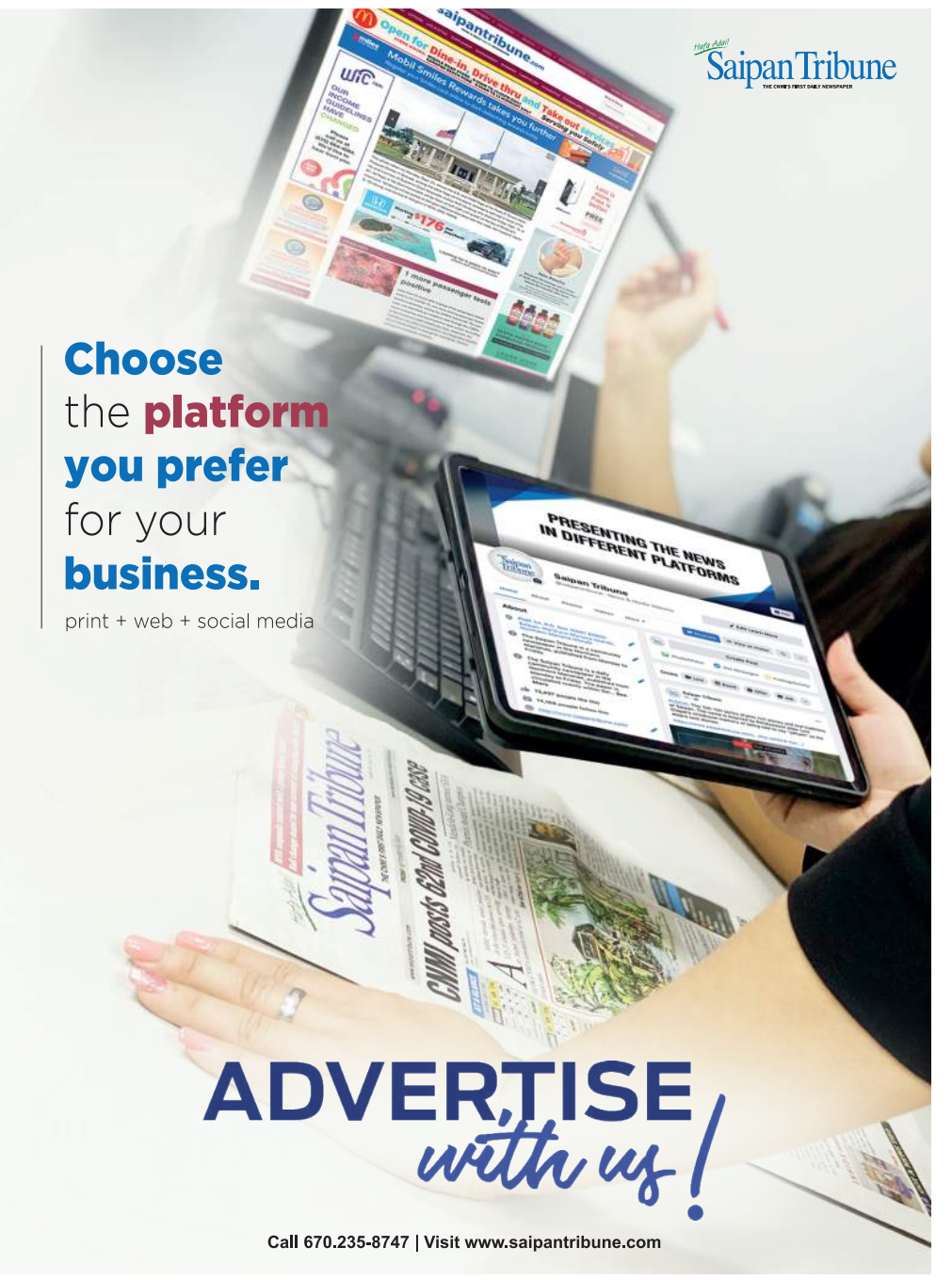

Humanities Council donates $10K to 'Racism in America' project

NEIL FAMA

NMI Humanities Council executive director Leo G. Pangelinan, left, awards a $10,000 grant to Ambrose Bennett for his "The Origins & Evolution of Racism in America" project.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council gave out a $10,000 grant to a couple who is spearheading the "Origins & Evolution of Racism in America" project in the CNMI.

Humanities executive director Leo Pangelinan awarded the $10,000 grant last week to former Kagman High School teacher Ambrose Bennett and his wife Lillian Bennett to fund the "Racism in America" project.

Pangelinan said Bennett's project is timely and relevant not just in the United States, but also throughout the world.

In a press conference, Bennett said the project aims to educate the community regarding racism because racism is still being practiced, intentionally and unintentionally.

"It is clear that racism is still a real problem in America and the world. It must come to an end. We must understand that racism is a learned behavior. Nobody comes in the world a racist. Racism continues to exist because there are young people still being helplessly raised and educated to be racist. We should always use education as our most powerful tool to end racism," he said.

The Origins & Evolution of Racism in America project will showcase the critically acclaimed 1997 film *Amistad* and the award-winning 1977 TV mini-series *Roots*.

Amistad and *Roots* are full of adventure and drama. People will be fully entertained and will also learn something they didn't know about how racism evolved and there may even be those who will forever be changed for the better," Bennett said.

The project consists of a three-day film screening that aims to help people understand racism.

Bennett has been coordinating with Marianas High School in order to use their facilities as the venue of the film festival.

It is tentatively set for Oct. 10-12 at the MHS gym from 2pm to 6pm.

People are advised to come early due to limited seating.

Bennett said he was inspired to launch the project after seeing George Floyd's "I can't breathe" moment and he told himself that he had to do something.

Floyd was killed back in May while being arrested by a white police officer who knelt on his neck while he was handcuffed.

Man pleads guilty to theft

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has sentenced a man who pleaded guilty to theft to a one-year imprisonment.

Robert Jake Palacios, 32, pleaded guilty to the theft charge against him last Tuesday and was sentenced on the same day.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced Palacios to one-year imprisonment all suspended except 60 days. The judge also deemed him ineligible for parole, early release or work release.

Kim-Tenorio ordered Palacios to self-surrender to the Department of Corrections immediately and to report to the Office of Adult Probation after serving his sentence.

The court gave Palacios credit for time serve and was given 16 days' credit toward his sentence.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas represented the government while assistant public defender Karie Comstock appeared for Palacios.

After completing his sentence, Palacios will be placed on probation for three years and pay a fine of $100.

Palacios was ordered not have direct or indirect contact with the victim during his entire probationary period.

According to court documents, police reported that after giving Palacios a ride in the victim's car, Palacios stole the person's cell phone, which was in the cup holder between them.

Palacios then asked an electronics store in Garapan to reset the cell phone without a password on Dec. 18, 2019.

CONGRESSMAN
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Senate may adopt version of budget today

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REPORTER

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Senate vice president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) held a meeting yesterday to finalize the Senate's version of the budget for fiscal year 2021.

Hofschneider said if everything checks out they hope to adopt the budget after they resume the meeting today, Thursday, at 2pm.

He said if the bill is satisfactory to the committee, then they are going to adopt it at the Senate session.

"Tomorrow will be the best time to get because that's when we we're going to officially place the Senate version of the budget," the senator said.

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives adopted the Senate's version of the House Concurrent Resolution that proposes $96.47 million in available revenue and resources for appropriation for government activities in fiscal year 2021.

The Senate's version is $13.81 million more than what the House had originally adopted in the concurrent resolution that proposes $82.65 million for appropriation.

All 19 representatives voted to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 21-2, SS1, that the Senate had just adopted Friday during a session. Only Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) voted against its adoption.

The Senate must pass its version of the fiscal year 2021 budget and transmit it to the House for its acceptance or rejection.

The CNMI government must enact a new and balanced budget before Oct. 1 to avoid a partial government shutdown.

Last July 1, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres submitted a revised revenue projection in the amount of $144.41 million. Of this amount, the governor approved $82.65 million for government appropriation.

Last July 29, the House adopted House Concurrent Resolution 21-2 authored by House Ways and Means chairman Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan). The resolution basically concurs with Torres' revised budget proposal for FY 2021 in the amount of $82.65 million.

DEAD

From Page 1

publicly rebuked one of his top scientists — Dr. Robert Redfield, a virologist and head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Redfield had angered the president by asserting that a COVID-19 vaccine wouldn't be widely available until late 2021. So hours later, with no supporting evidence, Trump called a news conference to say Redfield was "confused." A vaccine, Trump insisted, could be ready before November's election.

Mission accomplished: Fox was headlining Trump's latest foray in his administration's ongoing war against its own scientists.

It is a war that continues unabated, even as the nation's COVID-19 death toll has reached 200,000 — nearly half the number of Americans killed in World War II, a once unfathomable number that the nation's top doctors just months ago said was avoidable.

Over the past six months, the Trump administration has prioritized politics over science at key moments, refusing to follow expert advice that might have contained the spread of the virus and COVID-19, the disease it causes. Trump and his people have routinely dismissed experts' assessments of the gravity of the pandemic, and of the measures needed to bring it under control. They have tried to muzzle scientists who dispute the administration's rosy spin.

While there is no indication that Trump's desperation for a vaccine has affected the science or safety of the process, his insistence that one would be ready before the election is stoking mistrust in the very breakthrough he hopes will help his reelection.

Today, he is pushing hard for a resumption of normal activity and trying to project strength and control to bolster his political position in his campaign against Democrat Joe Biden.

In hindsight, Trump says, there's nothing he would have done differently, citing his early move to restrict travel from China — a move that data and records show was ineffective. Still, he gives himself high marks on his handling the pandemic — except for bad messaging.

TORRES

From Page 1

During a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres said he has not gotten a response yet from Scalia, but that their contact in Washington, D.C. will be following that up.

Torres said they tried to reach out to see how the CNMI can help all the nurses at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Torres

"They do play a great role on the success of the healthcare and I hope that we can get a response soon and have our nurses stay on island and perhaps also acknowledge that we need additional nurses," the governor said.

Torres said he continues to support the nursing program.

"I hope that this also gives an opportunity for our local capacity to understand how important and how critical that the occupation place the safety of our community," he said.

The governor hopes they can get a favorable response from Scalia very soon.

Despite a nationwide shortage of nurses particularly during the global fight against COVID-19 pandemic, federal authorities have denied the Temporary Labor Certifications for CHCC's petitions to renew the CW-1 permits of the 17 licensed practical nurses and one radiologic technologist. Their CW-1 permits expired last Sept. 15.

CHCC, meanwhile, is looking for other ways that they can hold onto the 18 healthcare workers who were denied of Temporary Labor Certifications, while they petition for a more permanent status.

In an interview, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said that they are looking into tourist visas for the healthcare workers. Additionally, chief operation officer Subroto Banerji said because the workers have been on the island for the longest time, CHCC doesn't want to separate them from their families who are on the island.

Muña said that the healthcare workers—13 licensed practical nurses on Saipan, four LPNs assigned to Tinian Health Center, and a radiologic technologist employed at the Rota Health Center—can stay in the CNMI for six months if they are granted tourist visas.

Muña confirmed that they have submitted a request for the tourist visas last Sept. 21, and they are waiting for a decision. That's not the only visa they are looking into, Muña said that there are other visas they are exploring as well. As of now, the healthcare workers can stay until Sept. 25.

Though things are not official, Muña said they are working with a law firm in Guam to process this request. She said they cannot work at CHCC with tourist visas, but they can use their "leave" while they are here on island.

"But if we get them processed to work too, it will help address the workforce issues that we have been expressing over the years," Muña said.

Additionally, the healthcare workers have expressed their intention to stay on the island. Muna also expressed concern because of what is going on in their home country of the Philippines, and that they want to be here with their families.

As of Tuesday, the Philippines has a total of 286,743 COVID-19 cases, with over 3,000 new cases reported every day since Sept. 8.

CHCC

From Page 1

whose mental health will be harmed.

At the Rotary Club of Saipan's general meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said she disagreed with the 14-day quarantine and considered that being isolated for two weeks won't be bearable for those whose mental health is compromised.

Another factor that dropped the 14-day quarantine to five to seven days is that the virus can be detected on the fifth day, which is proven to be the "most effective" date of when you notice the virus in an individual's system. Muña says that the virus can also be detected on the first day on arrival which is why they test on the first and fifth day. Testing on the first day will allow them to identify and isolate those who are positive.

Though people whose mental health will be compromised, Muña stated that there will be exemptions, but CHCC and the task force want to make sure that they identify those who are at high risk.

Additionally, with the help of Dave Baker, Saipan station manager for United Airlines, CHCC and the task force are able to know how incoming passengers are coming so that they will be able to get their registration system ready.

According to Muña, Baker has been responsible for informing individuals who are coming to the CNMI to be prepared for a mandatory quarantine, no matter what they are here for. Additionally, individuals are told to register on the CHCC or the governor's official website so that they can be automatically enrolled in the Sara Alert system.

Muña credits Turnkey Solutions for powering the Sara Alert system, which runs smoothly. According to their official website, Turnkey Solutions is a local CNMI consulting firm that specializes in customized web development/design, database development and management, search engine optimization, and data analytics utilizing the latest technology trends.

Additionally, the system is set up to where CHCC can effectively process incoming passengers from the entry point up until the discharge from the quarantine facility.

VOTING

From Page 1

ecutive director Julita A. Villagomez yesterday.

Villagomez said early voting for Northern Islands only supposed to start last Sept. 19, but CEC did not push through with it after the Legislature passed a bill that suspended certain election laws.

With respect to designated polling places on Saipan for early voting, the executive director said the only confirmed site is the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for precincts 2, 3A and 3B, and also for the Northern Islands, Tinian, and Rota.

Villagomez said the other polling places they are planning to designate are Youth Center in Koblerville for Precinct 1, Legislature in Capital Hill for 4A, 4B; Tanapag Center for 4C; and Kagman Youth Center for Precinct 5.

She said they have already requested to use the Youth Center in Koblerville, Legislature, Tanapag Youth Center, and Kagman Youth Center.

Villagomez said they don't have a problem with designating polling places during election day as schools are closed during the election day, being a holiday.

Villagomez said for Tinian and Rota early voting, they received a call from a Commonwealth Ports Authority official yesterday morning that the airports on the two islands are still questionable to be designated as polling places.

She said at the time they're considering the airports as designated polling places during early voting, they were thinking it's going to be three weeks, but now it's seven days.

Villagomez said now they have to go look elsewhere because according to the CPA official, the Tinian airport has typhoon water damage.

The Tinian airport has two buildings for the terminal. CEC eyed one building that is not being used.

"We're looking at other places like the youth center or the court for one week. So it's not clear yet where we're [going to] hold early voting on Tinian. We have to comply with COVID-19 Task Force," Villagomez said.

On Tinian, early voting used to be at the Tinian Department of Public Safety. The general elections on Tinian is always in the cafeteria of the Tinian Elementary School.

Regarding early voting on Rota, Villagomez said it's not confirmed yet whether it's going to be on the island's airport.

She emphasized that Rota and Tinian, however, can still do early voting on Saipan within the 21-day period.

Villagomez said for Rota early voting, they're eyeing to move back to the Rota Northern Marianas College, which is also the polling place for the general elections.

She said Rota DPS used to be the site of early voting, but there's renovation ongoing.

"We need bigger space. So that we can comply with COVID-19 Task Force," she said. The executive director reminded voters that the last day to apply for absentee voting is Oct. 9.

KILILI

From Page 2

Trades Institute, and CNMI Public School System.

"Our schools already provide Marianas students with many of the skills businesses are looking for," Sablan said. "But we need to keep building the connection between the school experience and the hands-on, real world work environment. That is where apprenticeships come in.

"Apprenticeships are the 'last-mile' link between training and jobs."

H.R. 8320 makes grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and other arrangements available to the Marianas for the purposes of establishing registered apprenticeships and expanding opportunities under the National Apprenticeship Act. If enacted into law, the bill would take effect on July 21, 2021 and authorize an FY2021 appropriation of $1,786,000, to be divided equally among the outlying areas. ***(PR)***

'Historical park designation will enhance Rota's potential economic growth'

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REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) expressed support to the concept of establishing Rota National Historical Park through a cooperative agreement or lease as she emphasized that any private land owners that lies in the park's boundary shall be compensated at the best/reasonable appraisal land value.

The U.S. National Park Service held a virtual public meeting last Thursday and Saturday to present its findings and recommendations of the Rota Special Resource Study.

During Thursday's meeting, many opposed establishing the Rota National Historical Park. Saturday's meeting was more on questions raised by some Rota and Saipan residents, and even from Guam, about the study.

National Park Service project manager Jonathan Gervais discussed how the Rota Special Resource Study started and presented its preliminary findings.

Based on these preliminary findings, NPS staff developed three alternative concepts for the preservation and public enjoyment of these sites including: Continuation of current management; Rota National Historical Park Concept; and Rota National Monument or Preserve Concept.

Santos submitted her position to NPS and said Rota NHP will greatly enhance the island's potential for economic growth, promote and enhance eco-tourism and visitor enjoyment, and create employment opportunities within the community.

"Significantly important is the infrastructure development such as roads, power and water that will greatly enhance and improve access for our people and visitors alike," she said.

Santos also asked that the people of Rota will not be restricted or prohibited from harvesting local traditional medicinal plants within the proposed National Historical Park's (NHP) boundary.

She asked that the medicinal plants on the proposed NHP boundary not be added to the federal lists of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants under the Endangered Species Act.

The senator also asked that the traditional hunting practices of deer and coconut crabs, during hunting season, for subsistence purposes should continue in the NHP

» But Santos says landowners should be compensated at best land value; residents not restricted from hunting, taking medicinal plants

boundary.

Santos said given with three options, she supports NHP that will include the Mochong Latte Village Complex, Alaguan Latte Village Complex, Chugai Pictograph Cave, As Nieves Latte Quarry, and the I'Chenchon Park Bird Sanctuary through a cooperative agreement or lease that could involve approximately 1,300 acres of ancient and historical sites.

While supporting the NHP's concept, the senator shared some concerns with respect to traditional medicinal plants and traditional hunting.

She noted that the proposed NHP is home to many of local traditional medicinal plants.

She said many of their people enter these areas to harvest these medicinal plants to produce remedies for themselves or family members.

"It is a time-honored tradition that has been passed down through many generations," Santos said.

She noted that the vast areas of public land in the NHP boundary does include critical habitat for threatened and endangered species that will be preserved.

The senator said concerns of endangered species will be alleviated.

Santos

She said NHP will have a potential effect on existing and future land use and conservation, and also has the potential to protect the valuable resources for generations to come.

Santos said public lands within critical habitat that were homestead and/or approved to be homesteaded for agricultural purposes prior to the 2004 federal designation of critical habitat should be returned so that the island may engage in adequate agricultural endeavors that will support the community.

Therefore, the senator said, the proposed NHP boundary should be used as mitigation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife for the return of approximately 244 agricultural homestead lots that lie within the designated sites in As Nieves, I-Chenchon, Gampapa and Dugi.

She said this includes public land located in Mua containing 25-30 hectares designated for village homesteading and other relatively flat or gently sloping public lands for commercial purposes that will support the establishment of the NHP.

Santos said although there are several examples of tropical ecosystems found in existing units of the NPS, there are no units currently in the system containing noteworthy examples of the native limestone forests of the Mariana Islands.

NPS' preliminary findings indicate that the island's limestone forests, ancient Chamorro sites, and historic World War II Japanese defensive complexes meet the suitability criteria.

NPS said there are no other comparable examples of limestone forests, unique monumental Chamorro architecture, and Japanese World War II defensive structures found in the U.S. and its territories.

NPS said the limestone forests also provide important and even critical habitat for several species of endangered plants and animals.

NPS said this justifies for adding this tropical ecosystem to the National Park System.

Santos said the present level of protection appears to be inadequate for the long-term protection of Rota's native forest, its threatened and endangered species, and its significant archaeological sites.

"Thus, we know that the NPS would employ appropriate treatments and techniques to protect these sites and their cultural values from deterioration, theft and vandalism without compromising their integrity," she said.

Santos said as a valuable addition to the NPS, Rota will serve as a benefit to both the National Park System and the CNMI by providing a rich heritage for all to enjoy for many years go come.

On April 27, 2010, Santos also testified at the hearing before the U.S. House Committee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on H.R. 4686, a bill to authorize the Interior Secretary to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, as a unit of the NPS.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-027

ISLEY WATER TANK FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from contractors for the replacement of the existing Isley Water Tank security fence in Isley Field, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-027 *Isley Water Tank Fence Replacement Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 27, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 9, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Yvonne Ogumoro, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer at email yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals & Priorities for fiscal year 2021 as follows:

Statement of Goals and Priorities
[Fiscal Year 2021]

[CLIENT / COMMUNITY SERVICES]

GOAL 1: To provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Priority 1.1: Facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for eligible individuals with disabilities in the community (at least one more than the previous fiscal year).

Priority 1.2: Facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

Priority 1.3: Facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

GOAL 2: To advance the understanding of and appreciation for Protection & Advocacy services and disability-related issues in the CNMI.

Priority 2.1: Facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

Priority 2.2: Promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

Priority 2.3: Foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

[ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS]

GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

Priority 3.1: Maintain an efficient, effective and legally-compliant administrative operation.

Priority 3.2: Maintain an effective, diverse and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

Priority 3.3: Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact us on-line at www.nmpasi.org.

NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S. **Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the **U.S. Department of Education (DOE)**/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the **Social Security Administration (SSA)**.*

Court denies restitution to victim of hit and run

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied restitution to the family of the victim involved in a fatal hit-and-run case.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho denied the Office of the Attorney General's motion for reconsideration regarding restitution in the case of Esekiel "Easy" Smith.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, OAG chief prosecutor John Bradley said that the AG's office notified the court that the CNMI Constitution guarantees a victim the right to restitution.

He added that the CNMI Code of Criminal Procedure recognizes that the estate of a deceased victim inherits that right to restitution.

"The victims of crimes, especially those killed by a criminal defendant, and the victims' surviving families, deserve to be made whole, as the CNMI Constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedure clearly state. Nonetheless, Camacho denied the family restitution and left them exposed to a debt for medical expenses," Bradley said.

Bradley said Camacho took the position that the victim had to pay the bill to gain the right to restitution but the OAG argues that that is not possible as the victim was killed by the reckless driver.

The AG's office plans to look to the Supreme Court to ask them to review the decision.

Smith, 31, was sentenced to five years and six months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident without rendering assistance.

As part of Smith's sentence, he was ordered to pay restitution to the victim's family and was made eligible for work release while serving his sentence to pay his restitution.

The parties agreed that, at a minimum, Smith owed $1,000 in restitution, which was immediately paid from the bail money he posted. However, the parties disagreed as to how much more Smith owed in restitution and to whom.

On March 30, 2020, Camacho issued an order stating that the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. are not eligible to receive restitution when they are only "indirect third-party victims" of a crime.

The judge added that tort defense of comparative negligence is not applicable in this case because the victim's family members did not negligently contribute to their damages.

"Voluntary offertory gifts to priests for performing funeral Mass are not economic losses for purposes of restitution," Camacho said.

The AG's office then filed a motion to reconsider the judge's order.

Camacho denied the government's motion to reconsider last Friday since there was no economic loss by the victim because he did not pay DFEMS and CHCC bills; and the estate of the victim cannot recover restitution as it is not a "direct victim" of defendant's crime.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saipan Emerald Villa

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Emerald Villa is proposing to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 045 A 128 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saipan Emerald Villa

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Emerald Villa is proposing to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 045 A 129 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Marianas Hemp Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms is proposing to operate a Cannabis Farm establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 053 E 11 in As Teo village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Max Investments LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Max Investments LLC is proposing to operate a Cannabis Farm establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 502 NEW-3-5 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Primo Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Primo Farms is proposing to operate a Cannabis Farm establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 338-1 in Talafofo village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Tuu Group LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Tuu Group LLC is proposing to operate a Cannabis Farm establishment. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. TR 22774 in As Mahetog village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 07, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 31, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

USACE awards contract to increase GMH patient capacity for Alternate Care Facility use

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii— Working in partnership with the government of Guam and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) awarded a contract Sept. 18 to provide additional power capability and upgrades to rooms in Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH) to meet the emergent need for increased patient capacity and care capability in Guam.

In the fight against COVID-19, USACE is assisting with rapid Alternate Care Facility (ACF) engineering to support to public health systems. The GMH work is a follow-up to potential ACF site visits conducted earlier this year by USACE in partnership with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC)-Marianas.

"I want the people of Guam to know that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is all in," said Lt. Col. Eric Marshall, Honolulu District commander. "Each of us has been affected in some way by COVID-19 and we are eager to see this mission through to completion. We've already been working around the clock to put necessary actions in place so we can execute this work without a moment's delay. We stand with the Guam community in their time of need and we won't rest until we are complete."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Marianas Deputy Operations Officer Manny Guarin, foreground, listens as Guam Memorial Hospital Facilities and Maintenance manager Rizaldy Tugade gives a tour of the facility's power plant in Tamuning Sept. 19. Representatives from NAVFAC Marianas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA and the government of Guam conducted a site visit in preparation to convert several rooms to negative pressure capable rooms critical to the healthcare of COVID-19 patients.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USACE led a virtual site walkthrough with contractor Hensel Phelps to discuss requirements for providing additional power capability and negative pressure rooms in Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH) rooms to meet the emergent need for increased patient capacity and care capability on Guam. Also attending the walkthrough were personnel and representatives from Naval Facilities Engineering Command-Marianas (NAVFAC Marianas) GMH Authority, Gov-Guam agencies (Guam Fire Department, Civil Defense, Air National Guard Engineering), and Health and Human Services. The walkthrough was live-streamed to the Honolulu District project team in Hawaii via Webex.

After FEMA issued the mission assignment to USACE, Honolulu District awarded Hensel Phelps the contract to complete electrical repairs, negative pressure upgrades on two floors of GMH, and install a temporary back-up power generator. The anticipated completion date is Oct. 18. NAVFAC Marianas personnel will provide construction management in support of USACE for this urgent solution.

"The partnership between NAVFAC Marianas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA and the government of Guam is crucial during the island's COVID-19 battle," said NAVFAC Marianas Commanding Officer Capt. Tim Liberatore. "With this team of experts, we are able to provide the necessary support and vital infrastructure needed to help our community. I am proud of my entire team for their hard work and commitment in ensuring this mission is carried out successfully."

"It is critical we continue to provide any and all resources available to our front lines. Our federal partners have been instrumental in supplementing our personal protective equipment (PPE) supply and our medical staff, and now they are helping us address overdue infrastructure needs at GMH, our COVID-designated hospital. We are thankful for this aid as we continue our work to flatten the curve, stabilize our COVID hospitalization rate, and save lives," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

The government of Guam and GMH will manage the facilities once repair work of the FEMA-funded project is complete. Guam officials expect to use the facility to treat COVID-19 non-acute patients.

During emergencies, USACE is the federal government's lead public works and engineering support agency. Given its extensive work building medical facilities for its military stakeholders, USACE is uniquely qualified to meet this engineering challenge.

USACE continues to coordinate with FEMA, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, and the Government of Guam to support additional requirements.

"We'll continue to work alongside the government of Guam and federal partners to leverage our engineering expertise and construct potentially life-saving facilities for Guam's residents," Marshall said. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-029

TINIAN MAUI WELL II REHABILITATION PROJECT
(W17-054)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new pump control panel, variable frequency drive (VFD), flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, check valves, interior/exterior painting of the facility and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-029, *Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-030

INSTALLATION OF GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON (GAC) FILTER FOR TEN (10) WELLS
(W19-072)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new GAC filter, strainer, flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, pressure release valves, concrete pad and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-030, *Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 06, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 190

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

A grim milestone for COVID-19: 200,000

If a terrorist attack took 200,000 American lives, the country would mobilize for war. Yet as the U.S. death toll for COVID-19 passes that awful number, the nation's response is so fractured that it can be hard to tell anything is seriously amiss. The country could do many things to stem the damage wrought by the coronavirus, but the current grim milestone calls for a simpler and more natural response: grief.

Take a moment to reflect on the enormity of our loss. If the pandemic were a war, it would be the third-costliest in U.S. history. It has killed more Americans than all our combined wars but the two world wars and the Civil War. That it has not yet eclipsed the bloodletting of those conflicts should be of scant comfort; give it time.

Better yet, don't. It is past time for a clear, unified response to this crisis. Each of the dead leaves a gap in our society, an empty seat at the breakfast table or a hole in the fabric of a family's life. Even those who died without close friends or family deserved the respect of their fellow citizens, as well as the care and protection of their government. What many of them got instead, individually and collectively, was indifference. Even a measure as simple as wearing masks when out among the public has proved contentious and controversial. President Donald Trump could drain the fever out of the opposition by setting an example and wearing one himself; instead he most often goes without, and mocks his opponent, Joe Biden, for doing the right thing.

For too many Americans, the simple expedient of wearing masks is perceived as a judgment call — something done out of an overabundance of caution, or blind obedience to liberal dogma. Drive down University Avenue on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota and you're likely to see students doing what they traditionally do: enjoying the weather and the confidence that comes with youth. They gather without masks, with no regard for social distancing. They are aware of the pandemic, but too many do not appear to take its dangers seriously.

And why should they? Trump and his supporters have managed to malign the scientists and marginalize the science. Apparently contaminated by political pressure, the once-respected CDC has become a font of conflicting signals: The virus spreads via aerosols, and then it doesn't; asymptomatic people who've been exposed don't need to be tested, and then they do.

Passing 200,000 deaths is an occasion to contemplate the abyss. This pandemic shows no sign of disappearing. Educations are being disrupted, surgeries postponed, funerals and weddings and careers deferred. The economic pain is widespread.

And a national leader who cannot bring himself even to wear a mask in the public interest should ask himself why he wanted to be president in the first place.

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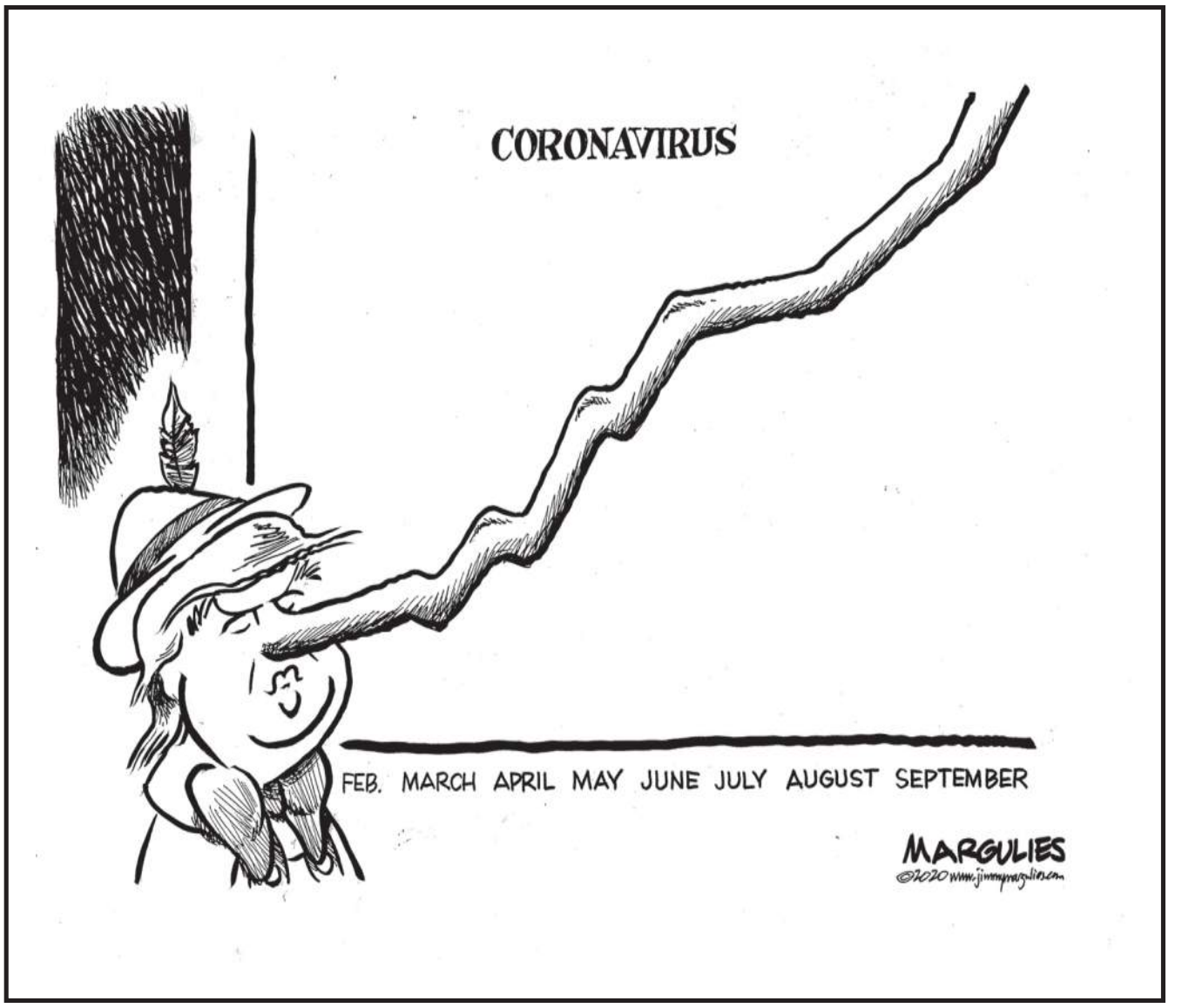


200,000 US coronavirus deaths will be Trump's legacy, and his cynical lies should be his end

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune *columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus reached 200,000 Tuesday.

That staggeringly grim count came less than a day after President Donald Trump, rambling like a clueless loon before a crowd of largely maskless Ohioans, said the coronavirus "affects virtually nobody" under 18.

It was more deceptive, idiotic nonsense from the man who is supposed to be leading our nation through one of the worst public health crises in history, a crisis that has claimed more American lives than World War I and the Vietnam War combined.

The deaths already are nearly 70 times the number of lives lost in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It's as if the entire population of a city the size of Aurora, Illinois, was wiped out in eight months, and more are dying each day.

America has less than 5% of the world's population and more than 20% of the reported deaths from COVID-19. Only five countries—Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Spain and Brazil—have higher deaths per capita from this virus.

And our president continues to lie to the American people about the virus and downplay its seriousness. Saying the coronavirus "affects virtually nobody" under 18 is a dangerous deception.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention flagged a steady increase of coronavirus cases among children younger than 18 from March to July.

Last month, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said young people who get the virus often "have residual symptoms for weeks and sometimes month." And he said follow-up checkups of those young people show they "have a substantially high proportion of cardiovascular abnormalities, evidence of myocarditis by MRI and PET scans, evidence of emerging cardiomyopathies."

Perhaps most importantly, we know that Trump knows the virus affects young people because he told Bob Woodward, in recorded interviews in March, that the virus affects "plenty of young people."

"Now it's turning out it's not just old people, Bob," Trump said. "But just today, and yesterday, some startling facts came out. It's not just old, older."

But Trump's own words, along with facts, evidence, illness and death, mean nothing to him. He has lied about this pandemic — it will "miraculously" be gone by April "once the weather warms up" — from the jump, and pushed fake cure-alls from hydroxychloroquine to convalescent plasma while raising doubts about proven safety practices like wearing masks.

The 200,000 death milestone should hang around Trump's electoral neck like a millstone. It will be his legacy, those lost lives haunting him and Republicans for years to come, reminding people of the Faustian bargain conservatives struck to gain three Supreme Court justices.

Sadly, this is far from the end. We're still losing more than 700 lives a day to the virus, and the University of Washington's widely respected coronavirus pandemic model estimates the death toll will double to 400,000 by the end of the year.

A vaccine won't likely be widely available until later next year.

Jennifer Nuzzo, a Johns Hopkins University public health researcher, told The Associated Press on Tuesday: "It is completely unfathomable that we've reached this point."

I suppose. Although given the leader of this country, a recklessly dishonest, self-absorbed con artist, I'd argue it's completely fathomable.

The virus isn't Trump's fault, but he has led America's weak-kneed response to the virus. He has failed, miserably, and 200,000 Americans are now dead.

You can't downplay that many human lives. If they happen on a president's watch they will stick. As they should.

Trump's legacy is 200,000 deaths. And counting.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Foreign actors and cybercriminals likely to spread disinformation regarding 2020 election results

By JASON WHITE
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are issuing this announcement to raise awareness of the potential threat posed by attempts to spread disinformation regarding the results of the 2020 elections. Foreign actors and cybercriminals could create new websites, change existing websites, and create or share corresponding social media content to spread false information in an attempt to discredit the electoral process and undermine confidence in U.S. democratic institutions.

State and local officials typically require several days to weeks to certify elections' final results in order to ensure every legally cast vote is accurately counted. The increased use of mail-in ballots due to COVID-19 protocols could leave officials with incomplete results on election night. Foreign actors and cybercriminals could exploit the time required to certify and announce elections' results by disseminating disinformation that includes reports of voter suppression, cyberattacks targeting election infrastructure, voter or ballot fraud, and other problems intended to convince the public of the elections' illegitimacy.

The FBI and CISA urge the American public to critically evaluate the sources of the information they consume and to seek out reliable and verified information from trusted sources, such as state and local election officials. The public should also be aware that if foreign actors or cyber criminals were able to successfully change an election-related website, the underlying data and internal systems would remain uncompromised.

Recommendations

Seek out information from trustworthy sources, such as state and local election officials; verify who produced the content; and consider their intent.

Verify through multiple reliable sources any reports about problems in voting or election results, and consider searching for other reliable sources before sharing such information via social media or other avenues.

For information about final election results, rely on state and local government election officials.

Report potential election crimes—such as disinformation about the manner, time, or place of voting—to the FBI.

If appropriate, make use of in-platform tools offered by social media companies for reporting suspicious posts that appear to be spreading false or inconsistent information about election-related problems or results.

The FBI is responsible for investigating malign foreign influence operations and malicious cyber activity targeting election infrastructure and other U.S. democratic institutions. CISA is responsible for protecting the nation's critical infrastructure from physical and cyber threats. The FBI and CISA provide services and information to uphold the security, integrity, and resiliency of the U.S. electoral processes.

Victim reporting and additional information

The FBI encourages victims to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to their local field office (www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field). For additional assistance and best practices, and common terms, please visit the following websites:

Protected Voices: www.fbi.gov/investigate/counterintelligence/foreign-influence/protected-voices

Election Crimes and Security: www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/election-crimes-and-security

#Protect2020: www.cisa.gov/protect2020

Special Agent Jason White is the FBI Honolulu's media representative.

T.O.A.S.T. Tinian Old Age Sonnet Tales

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

SONNET SELFIE ON TURNING 71

(I was born September 14, 1949 in Elmira, New York)

I haven't celebrated my birthday much since I turned old enough
to vote and drink, which was 18 in New York State at the time.
I told my students to honor their mothers on their own birthday.
Mothers did all the work and carried them inside for nine months.
Here is an abcedarian sonnet of what I've become at 71, Enjoy:

AT 71 my ass is dragging, my BODY sagging
my CHIN doubled, my DOCTORS troubled
ENERGETIC yawns, FUDGING almost gone
GIRTH increased, HEAD in relative peace
ITCHING for scotch, JERKING my crotch
KEEPING my cool, LAUGHING at drool
MINDING my guts, just a little bit NUTS
OPENING my eyes to the PRESIDENT'S lies
QUIET sometimes, REALITY bell chimes
STUPID am and does, TALK about what was
USED to me by now, VARIETIES of chow
WEDDED twice, X's sometimes not so nice
YOUNG at heart I brag, my ZIG lost its ZAG
At 71 that's me A to Z, Pepe Joe Connolly.

AT 15 N LATITUDE, 145 E LONGITUDE

I'm longing for Tinian while on the mainland
laughing about 'Buenas zapatos' Hello shoes!
Covid 19 prevents traveling there as planned
gives me 'Missing Marpo Valley Boy Blues'
masarap smells of lechon babui on the spit
raindrops on banana leaves lull me to sleep
tears of pain remember typhoons that hit
starlit nights and moonshine on ocean deep
damage to homes and crops a crying shame
Chamorro baila yan dandan bring great joy
Kunados Eddie SN Borja yan Henry H. boy
si yuus ma'ase Tinian for all that you share
in my heart and soul I'll always be there.

Saving the Supreme Court

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

Oh, be quiet. So, so many voices right now are talking about a Supreme Court vacancy and whether it will be filled by a liberal or a conservative, a secular personality or a religious believer, a Democrat or a Republican, and all of that is beside the point.

The issue is judicial philosophy, whether the nominee thinks the job is about interpreting the actual words of the Constitution correctly or someone who thinks it is maybe about making some reference to the Constitution but chiefly applying his or her own notions of what the actual principle should be, his or her compassion, his or her moral and societal aspirations, his or her politics. No we do not want moral cynics making these decisions, but what's wrong is to resort to self instead of what is spelled out on paper.

Focusing on a reasonable evaluation of the literal intent of the document, what the words mean, what history tells us about arguments of that moment, is called rule of law. Different interpretations are plausible, there are precedents to consider and each case before the court is likely to have its own peculiarities. But the objective should be to understand what the Constitution actually says and to apply it rationally to the case, putting aside one's own predispositions. The opposite of this is generally to turn to ideology or self-importance, and what you then get is not a court, but an oligarchy.

Obviously, there are nuances in all of this, but it is Congress and state legislatures that are supposed to write the laws, not the court, which should aim at seeing whether they adhere to the Constitution. It is also all kinds of other officials who make all kinds of decisions that the court may also check out through what the Constitution or other laws actually say. When the court steps in without serious reference to the law, there goes the separation of powers, there goes the republic, there goes the consent of the people. Authoritarianism scoots closer.

You hear all kinds of counterarguments backing up decades of transgressions, such as the need to have a living Constitution that adjusts to the times for the sake of vitality. Excuse me, but there is an amendment process, and yes, it is as tough a process as it should be in so crucial an undertaking. To skip it for the sake of personal convictions is akin to disregarding presidential vetoes or the Senate's advice-and-consent checks on presidential appointees. It is anarchy substituting for responsibility.

Liberals and Democrats can be constitutionalists and conservatives and Republicans can be the tear-it-up people, but, for the most part, the opposite is true. President Donald Trump has named two men with constitutionalist records to the court and right now, with a sad death and an unexpected vacancy, is pushing for quick, pre-inauguration Senate action validating his new pick. The Democratic pushback is that we may soon have a different president representing the will of the people and should wait for him. The Democrats also point to the hypocrisy of the Republican Senate holding off on an Obama pick because of a presidential election coming up.

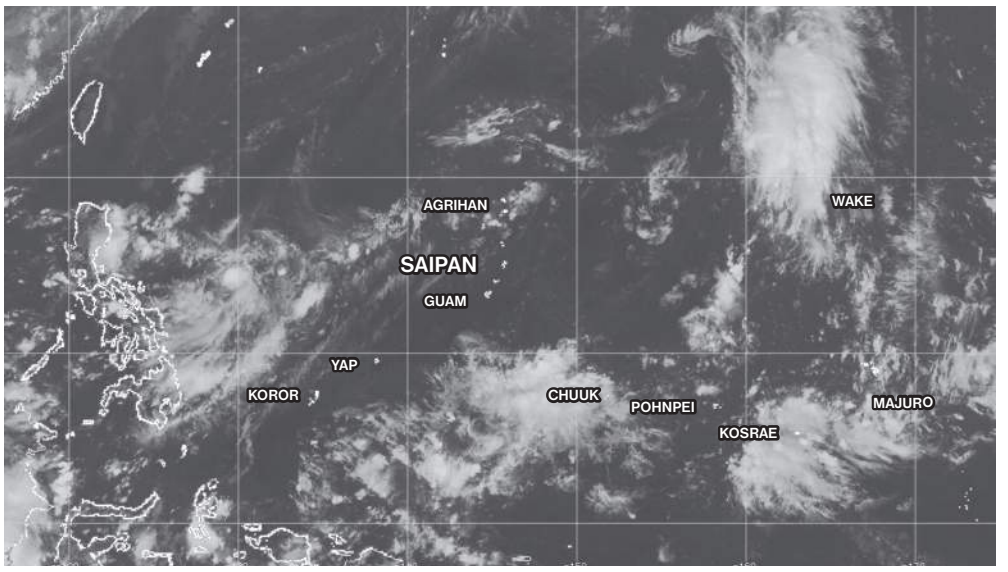
The truth is that both sides have indulged in hypocritical chicanery in this business and that the integrity of the Democrats is summed up by their libelous treatment of justice nominee Brett Kavanaugh and their present talk of packing the Supreme Court if they do not get their way. While waiting until after the inauguration would definitely enable a more temperate process, the law in no way prohibits action in the here and now, and relying on lawmakers already chosen for such things might well be a way to help save the court.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East to northeast wind 5 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86° 77°	87° 78°	89° 78°	87° 76°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:25 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows clear skies as a narrow surface high sits overhead. Winds are very light from the southwest. A surface trough is located to the west and a trade-wind trough is well east of the islands. Buoys indicate seas are around 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:40 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:09 AM	1:37 PM
Saturday	-	1:05 AM	2:30 PM
Sunday	-	2:01 AM	3:18 PM
Monday	-	2:55 AM	4:02 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	73° / 48°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 69°
Osaka	Rain	75° / 64°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Busan	Rain	75° / 64°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	92° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	82° / 60°
Seoul	Sunny	73° / 52°
Tokyo	Rain	77° / 66°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 71°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:17 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.03
2:54 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
8:12 PM	LOW TIDE	1.29
-	-	-

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Spicy tuna poke is a staple at Gentle Brook Cafe and Restaurant.

GENTLE BROOK CAFÉ AND RESTAURANT

'Good food, great atmosphere'

BEA CABRERA
Gentle Brook Cafe and Restaurant is running on its 10th year this year. They are located on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe

BEA CABRERA
Gentle Brook staff are ready to serve and satisfy. From left, Michael Vincent Sanchez, Nagisa Kishimoto, and Zenaida Abendan.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

When you are looking for a restaurant to take your family, friends, or a loved one, Gentle Brook Café and Restaurant should be on top of the list. Conveniently located on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, this café and restaurant prides itself on having a relaxing, child-friendly, and romantic atmosphere accompanied with many choices of scrumptious food in their menu.

Now on their 10th year, owner Satoko Kobayashi said the challenge to be better is always a goal they strive for every year. "Gentle Brook originally opened in 2008 but we took over management in 2010… We wanted a place for people to enjoy good Japanese, American, and European food… after 10 years we are still here and doing what we love and I am glad that the community appreciates it," she said.

"We temporarily closed in March due to COVID-19 concerns and in June, we slowly reopened the business and did take-outs. In July, we reopened our dine-in operations and we were amazed that people started coming in. We saw that as a good sign," she added.

To be able to try in one sitting the many dishes at Gentle Brook, the $10 "2 Choice" option where you can mix-match dishes is highly recommended. Choice A comes with hamburger steak with gravy sauce as the main dish. It can be partnered with breaded deep fried basa fillet, pork yakiniku thin cut stir fry pork, fried dumpling or gyoza, and boneless fried chicken.

Choice B comes with Menchi Katsu which is breaded beef fried hamburger steak and can be paired with breaded deep fried basa fillet, pork yakiniku thin cut stir fry pork, fried dumpling or gyoza, and boneless fried chicken. Both choices come with salad, rice, and iced or green tea and available for lunch and dinner (dine-in or take-out).

For those who still shy away from dining in, Gentle Brook hears them as its $8 take-out promotion is ongoing. Bento A includes two pieces of tempura and fried boneless chicken. Bento B includes namban deep fried juicy chicken mixed with sweet soy vinegar topped with delectable tartar and fried dumpling. Bento C includes fried boneless chicken and inarizushi which is a kind of sushi made of aburaage (deep fried tofu stuffed with rice). All bentos come with salad and steamed rice.

Regular menu is available and bestsellers go from $10 to $11 only. Bestsellers include tonkatsu which is breaded deep fried pork cutlets with a side of Japanese Worcestershire sauce with steamed rice for only $10, teriyaki chicken saute which is crispy chicken combined with original savory teriyaki sauce and comes with steamed rice for only $10, and the katsu curry rice which is Japanese-style spicy curry sauce poured on top of rice with breaded deep fried pork and chicken cutlet for only $11.

As for safety protocols, Gentle Brook is compliant. "It is good people go straight to the hand sanitizer upon entering and record their names. We get their temperature and we lead them to the table… our customer's safety is an important part of our service," said wait staff Michael Vincent Sanchez

"Most of our customers are locals—families and corporate people. We also had tourists come… I think our staying power is due to our regular customers. We treat them like family…We see people come here twice or thrice a week and when somebody I recognize come, it makes me feel happy and excited to see them because people come back because of the connection they have in this place," he added.

Gentle Brook Café and Restaurant is open from Monday to Saturday, 11:30am-1:30pm for lunch and from 5:30pm to 9pm for dinner. For more information, call (670) 234-2333 or visit their FaceBook: Gentle Brook Café and Restaurant.

House easily passes stopgap funding bill, averting shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a sweeping bipartisan vote that takes a government shutdown off the table, the House passed a temporary government-wide funding bill Tuesday night, shortly after President Donald Trump prevailed in a behind-the-scenes fight over his farm bailout.

The stopgap measure will keep federal agencies fully up and running into December, giving lame-duck lawmakers time to digest the election and decide whether to pass the annual government funding bills by then or kick them to the next administration. The budget year ends Sept. 30.

The 359-57 vote came after considerable behind-the-scenes battling over proposed add-ons. The final agreement gives the administration continued immediate authority to dole out Agriculture Department subsidies in the run-up to Election Day. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., retreated from an initial draft that sparked a furor with Republicans and farm-state Democrats, who said she was interfering with the routine implementation of the rural safety net as low crop prices and Trump's own tariffs slam farm country.

"It's a big deal. This is cash flow to mom and pop businesses all over rural America," said Texas Rep. Michael Conaway, top Republican on the House Agriculture Committee. "They get them every year in October. They come like clockwork."

In talks Tuesday, Pelosi restored a farm aid funding patch sought by the administration, which has sparked the ire of Democrats who said it plays political favorites as it gives out bailout money to farmers and ranchers.

In return, Pelosi won COVID-related food aid for the poor, including an extension of a higher food benefit for families whose children are unable to receive free or reduced lunches because schools are closed over the coronavirus. Another add-on would permit states to remove hurdles to food stamps and nutrition aid to low-income mothers that are more difficult to clear during the pandemic.

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Attorney for Petitioners SANTIAGO F. TUDELA and BERTHA CHONG TUDELA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: FRANCISCO MARTIN TUDELA DELA CRUZ and SANTIAGO JEREMIAH TUDELA DELA CRUZ, By: SANTIAGO FEJERAN TUDELA and BERTHA CHONG TUDELA, Petitioners.

FCD-AD-Civil Action No.:20-0272

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption for the above-named minor children by SANTIAGO FEJERAN TUDELA and BERTHA CHONG TUDELA, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING on said Petition for Adoption is set for October 07, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., to be held at Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, CNMI before the Honorable Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

By: /s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-024

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply and Delivery of a Tire Shredder for the Department of Public Works, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of Fifety Dollars **($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 14, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 21, 2020** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division**, Lower Base, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2726. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
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www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

Public Notice
From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: September 24, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the Department of the Navy regarding proposed repairs at Tinian Harbor. These include repair of the Roll-On-Roll-Off (RO-RO) ramp, north quay wall, and berths 1 and 2. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at:
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CZMA-CD-Dept-of-Navy-Tinian-Harbor-Sep-2020-2.pdf.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on September 24, 2020 and ending on October 9, 2020. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

Nation

Oregon grieves for natural places wiped out by wildfires

DETROIT LAKE, Ore. (AP)—Oregonians are grieving the loss of some of their most treasured natural places after wildfires wiped out campgrounds, hot springs and wooded retreats that have been touchstones for generations in a state known for its unspoiled beauty.

The flames that destroyed hundreds of homes and killed at least nine people also encroached on beloved state parks, scorched some of Oregon's best-known hiking trails and raged through a whitewater rafting mecca.

"Nature IS the icon in Oregon. We have this collective grief and some of that is (from) growing up here," said Eden Dawn, an editor at Portland Monthly magazine who wrote an essay about the wildfires. "We just didn't have New York City. We didn't have Hollywood. We didn't have these big fancy things, and Portland wasn't cool until a few years ago."

FILE - In this Sept. 15, 2020, file photo, scorched property stands at an intersection in Blue River, Ore., days after a blaze known as the Holiday Farm Fire swept through the area's business district. AP PHOTO

The fires damaged one of the nation's last low-elevation, old-growth forests, which includes Douglas fir trees up to 1,000 years old. A forest center built on the ruins of an old mining town that hosted thousands of Oregon children was largely reduced to ashes.

"My memories of growing up are sitting in a river and looking at the fish go by and spotting osprey around you," Dawn said. "In this moment, when you're watching your state and your childhood burn, it's utter hopelessness. There's really nothing you can do—and that is the feeling we're all feeling."

Detroit Lake, a state park south of Portland founded in the 1950s, sustained damage to its campground, and it's unclear if the tiny town along its shores will rebuild. Cedars Restaurant & Lounge, a famous stopping point for people traveling to the high desert of central Oregon or for those returning from backpacking in the surrounding wilderness, is also gone.

"It's a life full of memories and history, gone. We used to ski and boat every single day after I got off work all through the summer," said Sandi Elwood, who was born and raised on Detroit Lake and worked for nearly a decade at the Cedars, from the age of 14. "I learned to swim in that lake all by myself with no swimming instructor."

Oregon State Parks said Monday that 900 acres (364 hectares) within various parks had burned. The worst hit was Collier Memorial State Park near Klamath Falls, which lost 400 acres (162 hectares) of ponderosa pine and a historic cabin.

A string of tiny towns along nearby Highway 22 provided a launching pad for hikers exploring the old-growth forests and for fishermen headed to prime destinations along the North Santiam River and its tributaries. Those communities have been largely reduced to ashes. Fisherman's Bend, a favorite fishing and recreation area, is gone too.

"It's difficult to overstate how emotionally impactful this is for people who love the land in those places, whether they're locals or they're people who would only visit it once a year," said Steve Pedery of Oregon Wild. "These places are sanctuaries for people trying to find a little bit of peace and solitude in nature and the modern world."

Fire also tore through Jefferson Park, a popular alpine backpacking destination on the flanks of Mount Jefferson. The flames crept to the edges of Silver Falls—one of Oregon's most popular state parks and its largest—and burned up half the buildings at Breitenbush Hot Springs, a forest retreat where Oregonians bathed nude in natural hot springs, sat in saunas and practiced yoga.

Further south, another inferno leveled the town of Blue River, east of Eugene, and singed the forests around the McKenzie River, a premier whitewater rafting destination that attracts tourists from around the nation.

"So this is just a beautiful river corridor and ... some really beautiful stretches and beautiful views, and that will be very different," said Chandra LeGue, western Oregon field coordinator for Oregon Wild. "And it will have an impact on businesses and river guides for years to come."

The biggest worry for many environmentalists is the condition of the old-growth forest known as the Opal Creek Wilderness. Before the fire, hikers who visited the 36 miles of trails were rewarded with views of trees that were hundreds of years old with bark 6 inches thick. Deep, clear blue pools at Opal Creek were inviting on a hot day.

Kentucky city prepares for Breonna Taylor announcement

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Officials in Kentucky's largest city were preparing Tuesday for more protests and possible unrest as the public nervously awaits the state attorney general's announcement about whether he will charge officers in Breonna Taylor's shooting death.

With timing of the announcement still uncertain, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer declared a state of emergency due to the potential for civil unrest, hours after police said they would restrict access in the city's downtown area. The mayor and police said they were trying to plan ahead of time to protect both demonstrators and the people who live and work there.

But some involved in protests seeking justice for Taylor questioned why the police were going to such "overkill" lengths when the city has been the site of peaceful protests for months.

Attorney General Daniel Cameron has declined to set a deadline for his decision. Earlier this month, he remarked that "an investigation, if done properly, cannot follow a certain timeline."

Interim Police Chief Robert Schroeder said officials from Cameron's office have promised to try to give authorities a heads-up.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said the measures taken by Louisville police are due to the intense scrutiny of the Taylor case, in Louisville and around the country.

"The national attention here is so great, the potential for outsiders so significant, the possibility of someone taking something peaceful and trying to turn it into something that's not, is all there," Beshear said during his daily COVID-19 briefing Tuesday.

Mayor Fischer said officials' goal "is ensuring space and opportunity for potential protesters to gather and express their First Amendment rights after the announcement."

"At the same time, we are preparing for any eventuality to keep everyone safe," he said.

In a news release Tuesday, the Louisville Metro Police Department said it was placing barricades around Jefferson Square Park, where protests over Taylor's death have been held, and the perimeter of the downtown area; allowing only pedestrians in the blocks immediately surrounding the park; restricting vehicle traffic in other areas of downtown and limiting access to parking garages.

The department apologized for any inconveniences to workers and downtown residents.

"However, public safety is our number one priority, and it would be irresponsible if we did not take preemptive action to preserve it," the statement said.

Police first mentioned the barricades on Monday, when they also said they had canceled vacations and were denying officers' requests for time off for the time being.

Federal officials closed the federal courthouse and other federal buildings for the week.

Beta weakens to tropical depression, stalls over Texas coast

HOUSTON (AP)—Beta weakened to a tropical depression Tuesday as it parked itself over the Texas coast, raising concerns of extensive flooding in Houston and areas farther inland.

Beta, which made landfall late Monday as a tropical storm just north of Port O'Connor, is the first storm named for a Greek letter to make landfall in the continental United States. Forecasters ran out of traditional storm names last week, forcing the use of the Greek alphabet for only the second time since the 1950s.

By Tuesday afternoon, Beta was 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Port O'Connor, Texas, with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph (48 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The storm was moving east-northeast at 5 mph (8 kilometers) and was expected to crawl inland along the coast over Texas through Wednesday.

The National Hurricane Center said parts of the Houston area had seen up to 14 inches (36 centimeters) of rain by Tuesday afternoon. One area in Brazoria County, located south of Houston along the coast, got nearly 18 inches (46 centimeters) of rain in the last two days.

Street flooding was reported in parts of the Houston area. Fire Chief Samuel Peña said first responders had done nearly 100 water rescues on city roadways since Monday evening.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said there were preliminary reports of some home flooding along a creek south of Houston.

Both Hidalgo, the top elected official in Harris County, and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner urged residents to stay home and off the roads. About 70 barricades had been placed throughout the city in high water areas.

"Your sedan is not a submarine. Your minivan is not magical. So stay off the roads right now," Hidalgo said. "Your destination is not worth your life. It's not worth the life of the first responder that's going to have to come and rescue you if you drive into high water and are stuck there."

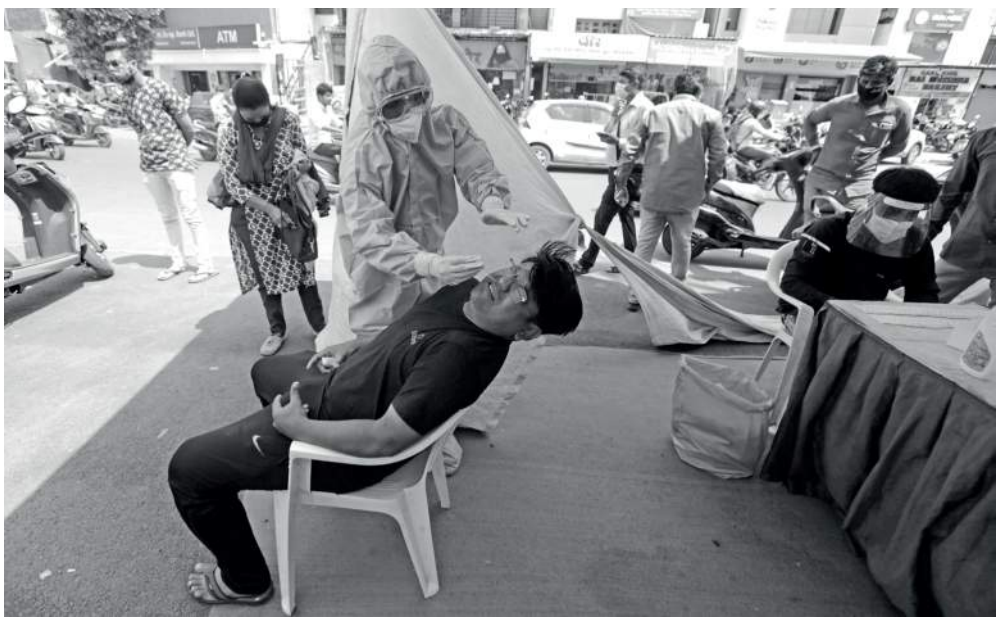
Houston-area officials worried additional rainfall Tuesday evening and Wednesday on already saturated ground and waterways could result in more flooding.

Houston resident Adam Matter, who was out near a flooded downtown area bayou on Tuesday, said Beta's flooding was "serious in spots. You should avoid those spots, but I don't think it's anything to be too concerned about."

Beta was the ninth named storm that made landfall in the continental U.S. this year. That tied a record set in 1916, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

Asia

India sees 83,000 new cases



AP

A health worker takes a nasal swab sample to test for COVID-19 test at a facility erected to screen people in Ahmedabad, India, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020.

NEW DELHI (AP)—India reported more than 83,000 new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, showing some decline after reaching a record a week earlier.

The country has now confirmed more than 5.6 million cases. The health ministry also reported 1,085 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 90,020.

India is expected to become the world's worst-hit country within weeks, surpassing the United States, where nearly 6.9 million people have been infected by the virus.

But the past week has seen some improvement in India, with the numbers dropping after a record 97,894 new cases were reported on Sept. 16.

Balram Bhargava, director-general of the Indian Council for Medical Research, said Tuesday that vaccines with at least 50% efficacy will be approved for use against the coronavirus. That's the benchmark set by the World Health Organization, as no vaccine for respiratory diseases is 100% effective, Bhargava told reporters.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Xi Jinping, China's president and the leader of its Communist Party, cast the fight against the virus as an important exercise in international cooperation, an opportunity to "join hands and be prepared to meet even more global challenges." Xi took oblique potshots at the United States and its foreign policies, cautioning in a U.N. address Tuesday that the world must "not fall into the trap of a clash of civilizations"—remarks played minutes after delegates heard U.S. President Donald Trump insist that the United Nations "hold China accountable" for how it handled the emergence of the coronavirus. While Xi, being prerecorded and not there, could not rebut what Trump said, his U.N. ambassador was in the General Assembly chamber and responded directly while introducing the Xi video.

Taiwan's Tsai visits base following Chinese show of force

PENGHU, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen visited a military base on one of Taiwan's outlying islands Tuesday in a display of resolve following a recent show of force by rival China.

Tsai spoke to roughly a hundred air force pilots and crew members at the Penghu Magong Air Force base, where two pilots took off in Taiwan-produced Ching-kuo Indigenous Defense Fighters to greet her arrival.

Taiwan has the "ability" and "resolve" to safeguard its territory, she said, while praising the soldiers as being able to get up in the air within five minutes.

"I know that having to face the provocations of the People's Liberation Army surrounding Taiwan, and their actions in disturbing the area's peace, in the situation, everyone's duty at the frontline air defense at Penghu has become heavier," Tsai said.

"But I have faith in every individual, that every one of our well-trained air force brothers and sisters is able to lift this heavy responsibility," she said.

The Chinese air force flew 37 planes, including fighter jets and long-distance bombers, over the Taiwan Strait on Friday and Saturday in what Beijing called a deliberate warning during a visit by a high level U.S. State Department envoy to the island.

It was an unusually large display of force in response to the second such visit by a high-level U.S. official in two months. The American health secretary visited Taiwan in August.

China considers Taiwan part of its national territory and objects to all official contact between other countries and Taipei.

At a news conference Monday, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin again condemned the visit, calling it a "political provocation that emboldens Taiwan independence separatists and undermines China-U.S. relations as well as peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

China has increased its diplomatic and military pressure on Tsai's government over her refusal to agree to China's insistence that the island be considered a part of Chinese territory. The vast majority of Taiwanese reject the prospect of political union with China under the "one country, two systems" framework in place in Hong Kong.

Tsai has remained defiant in face of China's anger.

"I am confident in each one of you, because as soldiers the Republic of China's air force, how can we let others throw their weight around in our own airspace?" she said on Tuesday, using Taiwan's formal name.

While China's armed forces have an overwhelming numerical advantage over Taiwan, the island's small but well-trained high-tech force enjoys strong support from the U.S., the island's chief ally.

World

AS US STRUGGLES

Africa's COVID-19 response is praised

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—At a lecture to peers this month, John Nkengasong showed images that once dogged Africa, with a magazine cover declaring it "The Hopeless Continent." Then he quoted Ghana's first president, Kwame Nkrumah: "It is clear that we must find an African solution to our problems, and that this can only be found in African unity."

The coronavirus pandemic has fractured global relationships. But as director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Nkengasong has helped to steer Africa's 54 countries into an alliance praised as responding better than some richer countries, including the United States.

While the U.S. surpassed 200,000 COVID-19 deaths and the world approaches 1 million, Africa's surge has been leveling off. Its 1.4 million confirmed cases are far from the horrors predicted. Antibody testing is expected to show many more infections, but most cases are asymptomatic. Just over 34,000 deaths are confirmed on the continent of 1.3 billion people.

Experts caution that data collection in many African countries is incomplete, and Nkengasong warned against complacency, saying a single case can spark a new surge.

"Africa is doing a lot of things right the rest of the world isn't," said Gayle Smith, a former administrator with the U.S. Agency for International Development. She's watched in astonishment as Washington looks inward instead of leading the world. But Africa "is a great story and one that needs to be told."

Nkengasong, whom the Gates Foundation honored Tuesday with its Global Goalkeeper Award as a "relentless proponent of global collaboration," is the continent's most visible narrator. A former official with the U.S. CDC, the Cameroon-born virologist modeled the African version on his ex-employer. It pains him to see the U.S. struggle now.

Nkengasong insists that Africa can stand up to COVID-19 if given a fighting chance.

Early modeling assumed "a large number of Africans would just die," he said. The Africa CDC decided not to issue projections. "When I looked at the data and the assumptions, I wasn't convinced," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Health experts point to Africa's youthful population as a factor in why COVID-19 hasn't taken a larger toll, along with swift lockdowns and the later arrival of the virus.

"Be patient," Nkengasong cautioned. "There's a lot we still don't know."

As Africa's top public health official, leading an agency launched only three years ago, he plunged into the race for medical supplies and now a vaccine. At first, it was a shock.

"The collapse of global cooperation and a failure of international solidarity have shoved Africa out of the diagnostics market," Nkengasong wrote in the journal Nature in April. "If Africa loses, the world loses."

Supplies slowly improved, and African countries have conducted 13 million tests, enough to cover 1% of the continent's population. But the ideal is 13 million tests per month, Nkengasong said.

He and other African leaders are haunted by the memories of 12 million Africans dying during the decade it took for affordable HIV drugs to reach the continent. That must not happen again, he said.

Russia's Putin urges end to sanctions to boost world economy

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin argued Tuesday that ending "illegitimate sanctions" against countries like his could boost the coronavirus-hit global economy and create jobs, using his annual speech at the U.N. General Assembly to stress the need for multilateral cooperation against the pandemic.

In a somewhat muted speech for the often tough-talking Russian leader, Putin told the U.N.'s 75th anniversary gathering that countries need to work together better to fight the virus and other global problems.

"Freeing world trade from barriers, bans, restrictions and illegitimate sanctions would be a great help in revitalizing global growth and reducing unemployment," he said.

Putin has been pushing for years to end U.S. and European Union sanctions imposed on Moscow after it annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, was accused of interfering in the 2016 U.S. elections, and other actions. Moscow views the Crimea annexation as legitimate, and denies meddling in the vote that gave Donald Trump the U.S. presidency.

Putin warned other countries against unspecified "interference" in domestic affairs, and said "cybersecurity also deserves most serious deliberation within the U.N."—without mentioning the Russian trolls and hackers accused of manipulating U.S. public opinion in 2016.

Putin's speech came amid tensions between Russia and the West over Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, who is being treated in Berlin for what German authorities said was a nerve agent poisoning, and as the EU ponders imposing sanctions over Belarus' disputed presidential election and crackdowns on protesters.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Navalny's poisoning an attempted murder that was intended to silence Putin's most prominent political foe. Merkel's office indicated she may be willing to rethink the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project, which would bring Russian gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea.

EU foreign ministers failed to agree Monday on imposing sanctions on Belarusian officials suspected of rigging the Aug. 9 election that kept authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko in power. A security crackdown on anti-government protests followed the vote. However, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said there was "clear will to adopt those sanctions."

Russia also has drawn international criticism for speedily approving a COVID-19 vaccine, and some Western experts said it cut corners during testing. Putin has touted the vaccine on national television and said that one of his adult daughters had already been inoculated - and on Tuesday, he offered to provide the vaccine free to all U.N. staff.

Environment

In cleaning up the island, every small action counts

IVA MAURIN

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Eli Cabrera, with his family, after a full Saturday morning spent picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman for the International Coastal Cleanup celebration.

IVA MAURIN

CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation staff is briefed by BECQ-Division of Coastal Resources Management's Mallory Muna on the data collection aspect of the cleanup held last Saturday at Tank Beach in Kagman for the International Coastal Cleanup celebration.

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds in the community walked the shores early morning Saturday, shifted through sand, plucked microplastics, picked up trash, all to take part in the celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup, to join the global fight for "Trash-Free Seas."

As a background, worldwide, it is estimated that each person generates an average of over half a kilo of waste per day, with about 2 billion metric tons of municipal solid waste produced yearly, and with a third of it not managed properly. What's worse? The World Bank projected that if nothing is done, global waste generation could increase to up to 70% by 2050.

Are we really heading that direction? If you look at it, based on the ICC in Saipan alone, last year volunteers cleaned up 47 locations and collected over 5,000 lbs of trash. This year, over 7,000 lbs of trash had been collected in just 40 locations.

What is happening? Wanton disregard for the environment. People going to the beaches and leaving trash behind, waiting for the next person to pick it up... or those cleaning up their yards but leaving their collected trash by the beach road, suffering from the NIMBY syndrome—as long as it is "not in my backyard," then "I am okay with trash."

Out of sight, out of mind.

Take trash to the right place

Joining the appeal for people to properly manage trash is Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Eli Cabrera. Joined by his family, he also spent his Saturday morning picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman.

"Throughout the island, I can imagine how many trash bags that will be picked up, some of them maybe residential trash that were put in on the beach side. All I'm asking the public is [that] the dump is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Bring [your trash] to the landfill or the transfer station."

Both the Marpi Landfill and the Lower Base Transfer Station are open all week except Wednesday.

"Do not leave [trash] by the beach area because there's a lot of dogs, scavengers [that get into] the trash bag. Then [people] call up and [report] that there's a lot of littering. Well, littering should have stopped if they bring [their trash] to the right place."

The BECQ administrator also stressed the importance of maintaining and keeping the shores clean, and also extended appreciation to all the cleanup volunteers.

"It's part of the environment. It's part of our environment... People are coming to use the area so we want to make sure it's always clean. [You] have to do your part, clean before you go."

Small actions matter

While more and more beach cleanups are being conducted on island, what makes the International Coastal Cleanup different is that on this global event, data on trash is collected. Here in the CNMI, BECQ's Division of Coastal Resources Management oversees this cleanup and data collection, and submits them to ICC main organizer, Ocean Conservancy.

The data that is collected, even if it is just one day out of a year, helps not just environmental organizations, researches, or scientists, but governments all over the world as well, to come up with projects and programs that could solve the problem.

For the CNMI, and for the past few years, top trash has always been cigarette butts, plastic spoons, cutleries, cans, and take-out boxes.

In response to this, according to DCRM director Janice Castro, some of the projects that they do include helping raise awareness about single-use plastics, the dangers they pose to the marine environment.

"Just be more conscious about making eco-friendly choices, more sustainable choices [such as] using reusable bags, reusable food container, skipping the straw. Even small actions really contribute to the larger picture."

The advocacy does not stop after the international coastal cleanup event too. There are year-round projects and programs in the community to help keep the islands clean and pristine.

Year-round advocacy

While we are still waiting on the 2020 ICC data, five of the top 10 trash collected in the CNMI at the last International Coastal Cleanup were plastic. Microplastics (plastic pieces that are smaller than 2.5 cm) ranked second, plastic bottle caps and lids were fourth and fifth, respectively, and plastic bottles and food wrappers ranked seventh and eighth.

DCRM launched the Plastic-Free Marianas program last year, working with businesses and guiding them into adopting plastic-free packaging right into their stores. There is also a bill pending at the Legislature banning the use of single-use plastic bags.

Castro also said that DCRM is also getting ready for the return of the Watershed Warriors program, geared towards elementary school students, teaching them about the different watersheds on Saipan, but more particularly, the watershed they live in, and what they can do to help improve the health of their watersheds.

"The watershed is an area from which the water drains from the ridge to the reef, so every action that happens on land in that watershed gets carried down to the water," Castro explained.

"When there are red flag events at the beaches, that's because the water somewhere washed something on the land down to the water, and brought that bacteria, that contamination down there. It's teaching students how to implement best practices and teach their families [and] their friends [not to] litter because what happens on the land happens on the sea too."

Now, as we wait for this year's official ICC data for the CNMI, let us all be mindful of the trash we generate. And, as we are being advised, let's all clean up, pick up, plus if we have time, volunteer.

Lions Club International region 2 chair Al Cabael, one of the island's many volunteers, said it right, "Being in this beautiful island, it is everyone's obligation to keep our environment, especially our beaches clean. In doing so, we are also giving a strong message to the younger generation to take good care of our nature."

IVA MAURIN

BECQ-Division of Environmental Quailty's Travis Spaeth and Larry Maurin sift through sand to pick up microplastics (plastics less than 2.5 cm) at Tank Beach in Kagman for the International Coastal Cleanup celebration.

Life & Style

Lennon's killer says he sought glory, deserved death penalty

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The man who killed John Lennon in 1980 says he was seeking glory and deserved the death penalty for a "despicable" act.

Mark David Chapman made the comments in response to questions last month from a parole board, which denied him parole for an 11th time. As in previous parole board hearings, the now 65-year-old inmate expressed remorse for gunning down the former Beatle outside the musician's Manhattan apartment building.

"I assassinated him .. because he was very, very, very famous and that's the only reason and I was very, very, very much seeking self-glory. Very selfish," Chapman said, according to a transcript released by the state Monday after an open records request.

Looking back 40 years later, Chapman called his actions "creepy" and "despicable." He said he thinks all the time about the pain he inflicted on Lennon's wife, Yoko Ono.

"I just want her to know that she knows her husband like no one else and knows the kind of man he was. I didn't," he said.

Chapman shot and killed Lennon on the night of Dec. 8, 1980, as he and Ono were returning to their Upper West Side apartment. Lennon had signed an autograph for Chapman on a copy of his recently released album, "Double Fantasy," earlier that day.

AP

In this Dec. 9, 1980, file photo, a crowd gathers outside the Dakota apartment building after John Lennon, who lived there, was shot hours earlier in front of the building when returning home on the evening of Dec. 8.

"He was actually kind to me that day," Chapman said.

Chapman is serving a 20-years-to-life sentence at Wende Correctional Facility, east of Buffalo. He told the board he would have "no complaint whatsoever" if they chose to leave him in prison for the rest of his life.

"I deserve zero, nothing. At the time I deserved the death penalty. When you knowingly plot someone's murder and know it's wrong and you do it for yourself, that's a death penalty right there, in my opinion," he said.

Hollywood unions, studios agree on rules to start production

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood's unions announced Monday that they have reached an agreement on pandemic protocols with major studios that will allow the broad resumption of production of films and television after six months of stagnant sets and widespread unemployment.

The Directors Guild of America, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Basic Crafts unions and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists jointly announced the deal reached with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers after months of planning and negotiating.

The deal includes mandatory and comprehensive use of personal protective gear and testing of cast and crew members, and a dedicated coronavirus supervisor to oversee it all.

It requires the use of a "zone system" that strictly limits interactions between people on sets based on their job's requirements. Those who must deal with more people will be tested more frequently and have more strict protective equipment and spacing requirements. Actors will be tested especially often because their on-camera work won't allow for many protective measures.

Tommy DeVito, founding member of the Four Seasons, dies

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Tommy DeVito, a founding member of the 1960s Four Seasons band, has died from the coronavirus at the age of 92, NJ.com reported.

His former bandmate Frankie Vallie wrote in a post on Facebook that DeVito had died, and said, "We send our love to his family during this most difficult time."

Actor Alfred Nittoli said in a separate Facebook post that DeVito died Monday evening in Las Vegas at the age of 92.

DeVito along with Valli, Bob Gaudio and Nick Massi founded the Four Seasons in 1960. They sang huge hits such as "Oh, What a Night," and other sensations from Valli's solo collection, like, ″Can't Take My Eyes Off You."

The Broadway musical Jersey Boys, which opened in 2005, tells the story of the band. The musical eventually won a Tony award for best musical, a Grammy Award for best cast album, and was made into a feature film.

TikTok says coordinated attack behind suicide clip uploads

LONDON (AP)—TikTok says a video of a man apparently taking his own life that circulated on its platform was spread deliberately by a group of users working together.

The company found evidence of a "coordinated attack" when it investigated why the video was suddenly appearing on the popular short-video sharing app, a TikTok executive told a British parliamentary committee Tuesday.

TikTok scrambled earlier this month to remove clips of the man shooting himself with a gun, raising concerns about the platform's ability to stop harmful content from reaching its users, many of whom are teens.

Theo Bertram, TikTok's European director of public policy, said there was a huge spike in the number of clips uploaded to TikTok about a week after the original video was livestreamed on Facebook.

"There's evidence of a coordinated attack," Bertrand said. "Through our investigations, we learned that groups operating on the dark web made plans to raid social media platforms including TikTok, in order to spread the video across the internet. What we saw was a group of users who were repeatedly attempting to upload the video to our platform." The dark web is a part of the internet accessible only through anonymity-providing software.

The users were "splicing it, editing it and cutting it in different ways" and then making new accounts to help spread it, he said.

AP

In this Friday, Aug. 7, 2020 file photo, the icons for the smartphone app TikTok on a smartphone screen in Beijing.

Mom makes snide remarks about new boyfriend's weight

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 35-year-old single mom. I've dated a few people over the last seven years, but none of them wanted to commit. Several months ago, I started seeing "Joey," a friend of a couple of years. He's sweet, respectful, hardworking, and he helps me whenever I need it.

Joey is on the heavy side, but he's clean and kempt. I introduced him to my mom, and she continues to say he is "gross." She refers to him only as "that man" and never by his name. He has always been very polite and has never said anything to her out of the way.

My son and I have lived with Mom ever since my divorce, and I have helped her out with more than my share of the bills and groceries. I'm currently trying to buy a house, but the market is competitive with the low interest rates. I work full time, take great care of my son and do lots of chores around the house.

How can I convince my mother to accept Joey, or should I ignore what she says as long as he's good to my son and me?

FOUND A GOOD GUY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FOUND: Nothing you can do will make your mother accept Joey. Most parents judge the men in their daughters' lives by how they treat their daughters, rather than a number on the scale. Has it occurred to you that she may be afraid your relationship with Joey could develop to the point you will no longer be around to do chores and help her with the bills?

From your description of him, "that man" is definitely a keeper. As long as he is good to you and your son and you care for him, please don't allow your mother to discourage you. As an adult, it's important to make your own decisions and live your own life without interference.

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister is a bipolar, narcissistic, psychotic, evil woman with bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology and counseling. She has hated me from birth. I know exactly what she is, and she can't stand that I do.

She spreads lies about me because our mother was alive for my wedding and not for hers and, according to her, it's my fault. (Mama died 10 years ago.) I made her maid of honor at my wedding and godmother to my child, but no matter what I do, she complains to anyone who will listen about what a horrible person she thinks I am. Because of her education, family members believe everything she says without question.

Our adult lives have been spent with her shutting me out and gossiping about me to extended family. How can I convince my relatives to listen to me? I have no one on my side when it comes to her because the family knows about her mental health issues and tell me to get over it. I can't! Please help me.

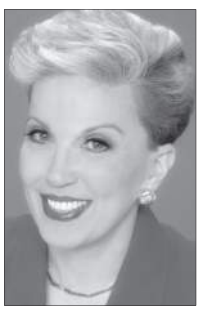
CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS

DEAR CAN'T GO ON: That your sister has graduate degrees in psychology and counseling does not guarantee that she isn't mentally ill. Your relatives are aware of her mental health issues and have advised you not to overreact. Perhaps you should take that to heart.

Find another godmother for your child, because clearly this one is unsuitable, and spend as little time around your sister as you can. If necessary, start replacing unsupportive family members with friends you can trust to be supportive. The only thing you should NOT do is continue to allow your sick sister to rule your life.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

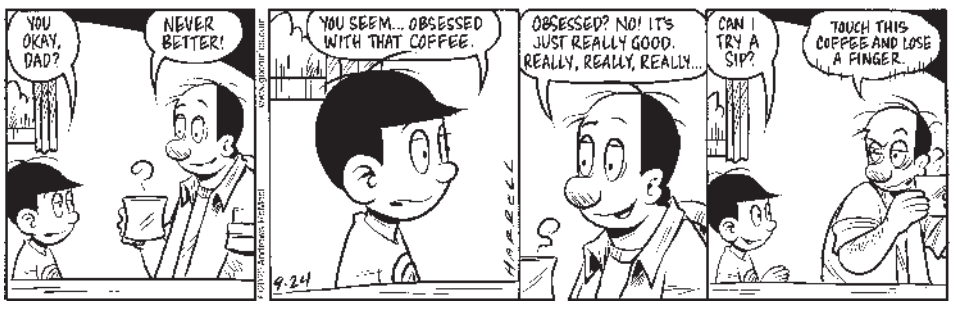
HOW CAN OUR TIME BE UP?! I JUST DID THE FIRST PROBLEM ON THIS QUIZ! WHERE DID THE TIME GO?!
GUESS! GUESS! PICK RANDOM NUMBERS! MAYBE A FEW WILL BE RIGHT BY SHEER LUCK! 15! 104! 3! 27!
HAND IT IN, CALVIN. YOUR TIME'S UP.
SIGHHHH
DON'T FORGET WE HAVE A BET ON WHO GETS THE HIGHER GRADE.
THE BETS OFF! I DON'T GAMBLE! NO BETS!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

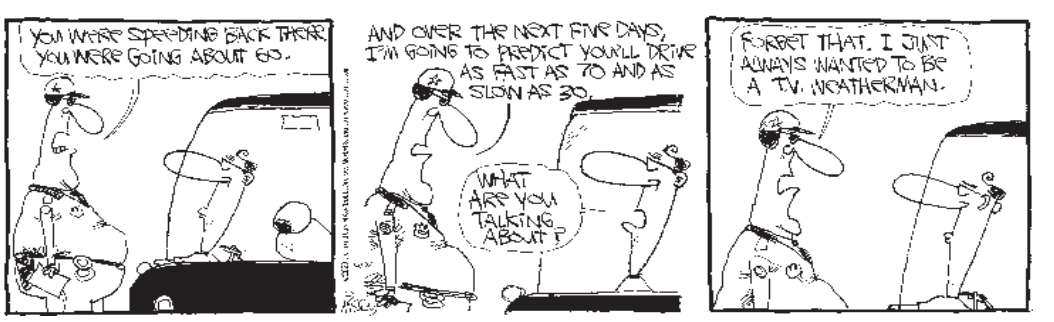
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU OKAY, DAD?
NEVER BETTER!
YOU SEEM... OBSESSED WITH THAT COFFEE.
OBSESSED? NO! IT'S JUST REALLY GOOD. REALLY, REALLY, REALLY...
CAN I TRY A SIP?
TOUCH THIS COFFEE AND LOSE A FINGER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU WERE SPEEDING BACK THERE. YOU WERE GOING ABOUT 60.
AND OVER THE NEXT FIVE DAYS, I'M GOING TO PREDICT YOU'LL DRIVE AS FAST AS 70 AND AS SLOW AS 30.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
FORGET THAT. I JUST ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A TV WEATHERMAN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

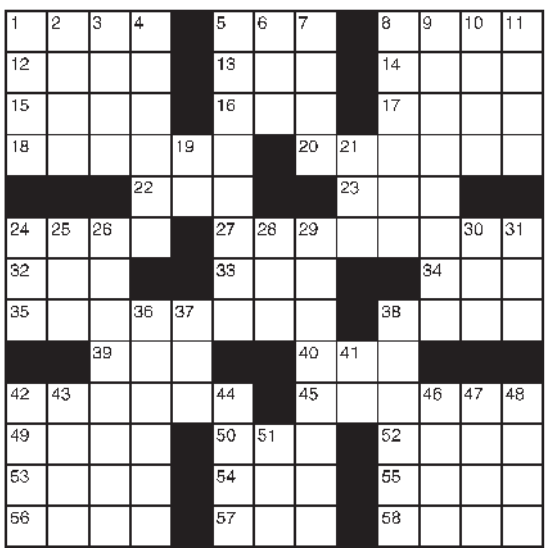
ACROSS
1 High-five sound
5 Media mogul Turner
8 Getz of jazz
12 Curbside yell
13 Rock's Brian
14 Saintly ring
15 War god
16 Just out
17 Rental units (Abbr.)
18 Sea off Poland
20 Neighbor of Sweden
22 Poem of praise
23 By way of
24 Furnace fuel
27 Seldom
32 Plant bristle
33 Capote nickname
34 Prefix with gram or center
35 "Locksley Hall" poet
38 Persia, today
39 Perfume label word
40 Understood
42 Use mouthwash
45 Midnight noshes
49 Beatnik's assent
50 Not "dis"
52 "Damn Yankees" vamp
53 Indy event
54 "Right you —!"
55 Mid-month date
56 Turned blue?
57 Chess piece
58 Mediocre grades

DOWN
1 Wild guess
2 News reporter Logan
3 Skater's leap
4 Handgun
5 Dime
6 Compass dir.
7 Blue
8 "Doctor Zhivago" star
9 Household thirst quencher
10 Utah ski resort
11 Prying
19 Freudian concept
21 Egg (Pref.)
24 Sylvester, for one
25 Have debts
26 Vampire novelist
28 Granada gold
29 Element No. 74
30 Clean air org.
31 Diarist Anais
36 Kvetched
37 Actor Brynner
38 Slanted type
41 Atop
42 Surround
43 Forever and —
44 Wax-coated cheese
46 Programmer's output
47 Swiss artist Paul
48 Back talk
51 Coach Parseghian

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	B	C	D	■	H	E	H	■	E	_	E	V
L	E	A	R	■	O	N	O	■	S	O	H	E
L	A	K	E	V	I	E	W	■	S	W	I	T
S	J	E	D	E	■	■	L	O	A	V	E	S
■	■	■	G	E	E	K	■	W	Y	C	■	■
M	A	L	E	■	L	■	M	E	■	I	L	K
A	R	I	■	B	A	R	E	D	■	C	I	I
R	E	F	■	A	L	■	T	■	T	E	E	N
■	■	■	N	C	■	N	F	R	O	■	■	■
N	A	V	A	I	O	■	■	F	N	A	C	T
A	I	■	X	■	I	A	S	V	F	G	A	S
■	A	S	C	■	D	N	A	■	■	E	A	P
A	N	■	S	■	E	O	N	■	S	S	N	S

Yesterday's answer 9-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Spencer Treat Clark, 33; Erin Chambers, 41; Nia Vardalos, 58; Kevin Sorbo, 62.

Happy Birthday: Put your house in order. Take care of situations that are slowing you down. Make changes that will encourage greater financial growth. Pay more attention to what's going on around you and how well you take care of your health and well-being. Rethink your strategy, and make adjustments that will counter unsavory situations. Don't get angry; get moving. Your numbers are 6, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Expect limitations if you fall behind with work responsibilities. A change to the way you do things will help you cut corners. Getting into an argument will work against you. Take pride in what you do, and avoid criticism. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Subtly alter the way you work with your colleagues, and it will make it easier for you to bring about the changes you want to make. Don't take on something that will cost you physically, emotionally or financially. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Work diligently on your own until you are happy with the results you achieve. Personal satisfaction will lift your spirits and give you the confidence you need to pursue your personal and professional goals. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stay calm, do whatever is necessary and avoid getting into a spat with someone who doesn't share your opinions. Be imaginative and show interest in what others do, but don't leave yourself open for criticism. Practice moderation. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be a leader, do your own thing and finish what you start. A personal change will encourage you to take on more responsibility. Before you make unrealistic promises, consider the time and cost involved. Romance and home improvements are favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Mix things up a bit. A change will be energizing and encourage you to try new things. Using social media, you will discover groups that share your concerns and interests. Think before you speak; an impulsive response will lead to trouble. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Process what's going on around you. Refuse to let what others do slow you down. Offer suggestions, but don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Choose peace and love over discord. Nurture meaningful relationships. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Change can be useful as long as everyone affected benefits equally. Listen to complaints, make adjustments and do your best to keep the peace. Put a personal vendetta behind you. Hanging on to the past will make you bitter and hold you back. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Avoid unnecessary purchases, and handle shared costs reasonably. Balance and structure will help you counter indulgent behavior. Concentrate on learning, fitness and self-improvement. Strive to be and do your best. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Alter the space you live in to suit your current needs. The change will be refreshing and lend itself to creative flow and the ability to overcome any discord you face. Peace and unity will result if you honor promises. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put more thought and action into your pursuits. Refuse to get caught up in someone's plans. Concentrate on what's important to you, and you will overcome the pressure and demands you face. Personal improvements and romance are favored. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Help others without fuss, and the rewards will be worthwhile. A change regarding how others perceive you will depend on what you are willing to do and how well you manage situations that require insight and mediation. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are articulate, sophisticated and active. You are sensitive and feisty.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7				6		1	
3				4		7		6
	2				9			
7		6						
	8						5	
						9		1
			2				8	
9		4		7				5
	6		1				3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	1	4	8	6	7	5	9	3
9	6	7	2	3	5	8	4	1
3	5	8	9	1	4	2	7	6
7	8	1	5	4	9	6	3	2
6	4	2	1	8	3	7	5	9
5	3	9	6	7	2	4	1	8
4	2	3	7	9	8	1	6	5
1	7	5	3	2	6	9	8	4
8	9	6	4	5	1	3	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MATERNITY LEAVE — Solution: 8 letters

D	C	C	B	Ⓑ	D	E	D	N	U	F	O	R	M	E
E	O	O	O	Ⓞ	E	V	E	N	T	S	L	E	E	P
R	N	C	N	Ⓝ	N	E	P	L	W	A	L	K	N	H
E	N	H	U	Ⓓ	T	A	P	R	B	S	L	O	W	O
V	E	T	R	M	I	R	I	A	E	I	I	S	S	T
O	C	R	O	D	E	T	O	A	R	T	G	P	W	O
C	T	I	I	W	E	N	I	L	P	E	U	I	A	S
L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	T	O	C	P	N	R	L	H
A	N	S	P	R	E	F	D	A	N	Y	L	T	N	E
N	G	T	E	M	S	A	R	I	T	S	B	Y	A	A
R	T	E	T	M	T	E	S	Y	L	I	M	A	F	L
U	I	P	N	N	O	U	R	I	S	H	O	L	B	T
O	M	M	E	D	I	C	A	L	E	L	D	N	A	H
J	E	E	V	A	E	L	N	U	R	S	I	N	G	C
G	N	I	R	A	E	R	M	I	W	S	K	E	E	W

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Adoption, Apply, Baby, Birth, Bond, Calm, Care, Conditions, Connecting, Control, Covered, Documentation, Eligible, Events, Family, Form, Funded, Gender, Handle, Health, Income, Journal, Laws, Leave, Library, Medical, Nourish, Nursing, Paid, Parental, Photos, Prior, Rearing, Rest, Return, Sleep, Slow, Step, Swim, Time, Trips, Walk, Warm, Weeks, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Civil War

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Nuggets hang on in Game 3, cut Lakers' lead

AP
Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) and Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis (3) compete for control of a loose ball during the first half of Game 3 of the NBA Western Conference final Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—They had just lost a playoff heartbreaker, and two nights later the Denver Nuggets quickly went from in control to in trouble.

Escaping trouble is what these Nuggets do best.

"Everybody always has us packing our bags and leaving, but we're not ready to go," coach Michael Malone said. "For some reason we love this bubble."

They'll get at least two more games in it.

Jamal Murray had 28 points, 12 assists and two late 3-pointers to halt a Lakers charge, helping the Nuggets to a 114-106 victory Tuesday night that cut Los Angeles' lead to 2-1 in the Western Conference finals.

The Nuggets lost almost all of a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter but held on, avoiding a 3-0 hole that would have been daunting even for this never-out-of-it team.

"We feel that we should be up 2-1 right now, to be honest," Murray said. "So we're just going to move on to Game 4."

Denver has set a record by erasing two 3-1 deficits in this postseason, but no NBA team has ever come back from 3-0.

Jerami Grant added a playoff career-high 26 points and Nikola Jokic had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Nuggets, who will try to even the series on Thursday.

LeBron James had 30 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds—his 26th playoff triple-double—for the Lakers, who remain two wins from their first NBA Finals appearance in a decade. Anthony Davis, who made the winning 3-pointer at the buzzer in Game 2, scored 27 points.

The Nuggets led by 20 with 10 1/2 minutes left and soon after were hanging on after the Lakers charged back with a 19-2 run, turning to a zone defense and forcing turnovers that led to easy baskets.

"We played some pretty good ball in the fourth quarter, but those first 36 minutes, that hurt us obviously," James said.

With Denver's lead down to four, Murray made a 3-pointer with 2:16 remaining. He then found Paul Millsap under the basket for a score before hitting a long 3 to push the lead back to 111-99 with 53 seconds to play.

Coach Frank Vogel acknowledged the Lakers were fortunate to win Game 2, in which they committed 24 turnovers, and would have to be better Tuesday.

Instead, it was the Nuggets who raised their game and played from ahead, ending a streak of six straight games where they trailed at halftime.

"Maybe they can beat us by 20, 30, they can beat us by a last shot, but we just cannot quit," Jokic said. "Effort needs to be there."

The Lakers built leads of 15 or more in the second quarter of the first two games. This time it was the Nuggets who started to run away in that period, even with Jokic on the bench resting for their big run that started it.

Denver began with a 7-0 spurt, the last five from Michael Porter Jr., to open a nine-point lead. After a dunk by James, Murray made a 3-pointer and Monte Morris scored the next five to make it a 15-2 start to the period and give the Nuggets a 44-29 advantage.

It would grow to 18 and could have been worse if not for Davis, who scored nine straight Lakers points. Markieff Morris' 3-pointer trimmed it to 63-53 at halftime.

The Lakers got the first five points of the third to cut the lead in half, but Denver regained control and led 93-75 after three.

Murray finished with eight rebounds.

Bulls hire ex-Thunder coach Donovan

Billy Donovan wasn't on the market for long—hardly a shocker given he's won everywhere he's coached.

That he's headed to Chicago might be a surprise, only because big and bold moves have been few and far between for the team. Then again, these aren't the same old Bulls.

Chicago struck it big Tuesday, hiring Donovan and landing one of the top candidates on the market to lead a rebuilding team with an overhauled front office.

The 55-year-old Donovan spent the past five seasons with the Oklahoma City Thunder. He replaces Jim Boylen, who was fired after the Bulls finished 22-43 and were one of the eight teams that didn't qualify for the NBA's restart at Walt Disney World.

In a statement, Donovan thanked ownership and said he's looking forward to working with new executive vice president of basketball operations Arturas Karnisovas.

"I'm excited to partner with Arturas as we work together on behalf of this historic franchise," he said.

The Bulls came into the season with their sights set on a playoff spot. They were 11th in the Eastern Conference when play was stopped in March and decided they needed new leadership.

Chicago hired Karnisovas as executive vice president of basketball operations in April out of Denver's front office and shifted John Paxson into an advisory role. The Bulls also brought in general manager Marc Eversley to replace the fired Gar Forman, and they let Boylen go last month.

Donovan went 243-157 as coach of the Thunder and reached the playoffs each year. He was a finalist for Coach of the Year this season after his team outperformed expectations and pushed the Houston Rockets to seven games in the first round of the playoffs. But with his contract expiring, the Thunder announced two weeks ago he would not return, saying it was a mutual decision.

Before his time with the Thunder, Donovan coached for 19 seasons at the University of Florida, winning two NCAA titles.

"We are very pleased to welcome Billy and his family to the Chicago Bulls," Karnisovas said. "Whether as a player or as a coach, he has won everywhere his career has taken him, and we hope that will continue here in Chicago."

Heat looking for better start in Game 4

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—The formula that the Miami Heat had backed themselves into using throughout this postseason wasn't exactly ideal.

They were losing almost every first quarter, and winning almost every game anyway.

It's not a sustainable plan, and the Boston Celtics finally showed that in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals when they pulled off a wire-to-wire win over Miami, not letting the Heat put together their typical comeback. Game 4 of the East title series—with Miami still leading 2-1—is Wednesday, and the Heat are insisting that there will be more urgency at the beginning.

"I think we've just got to start off better," Heat forward Jimmy Butler said. "I don't think we started off anywhere near where we're capable of. I think we dig ourselves a hole and try to fight back out of it. I think going into this next one, it's up to the starting five to come out with a great start."

Before Game 3, Miami was 8-0 in the playoffs when trailing after the first quarter —after going 10-16 when put in that position during the regular season. In the 36 minutes of first-period action against the Celtics, the Heat have led roughly one-sixth of the time.

Butler is 1 for 6 in 29 first-quarter minutes in the series. Duncan Robinson and Goran Dragic are a combined 10 for 19; the rest of the Heat in first quarters against the Celtics are 11 for 46. Boston has won the first quarters by a combined score of 88-68, shooting 54% to Miami's 32%.

"Certainly, it would help to be able to get off to a good start," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But you have to play good basketball more consistently when you get to this point in the conference finals against a quality opponent."

Another wild stat is this: Boston has outscored Miami 50-18 from 2-point range in first quarters so far in the series. And yet, somehow, the Celtics still need a win on Wednesday to even up matters—or fall into the dreaded 3-1 series hole.

"Obviously, you know that when a team lost its last one, you're going to get a great shot," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "But you expect a great shot every time. We're going to have to play our best game in Game 4, and then after Game 4 is over, we're going to have to play better than that in Game 5. That's kind of the way it works."

The teams have had three full days off since Game 3, a quirk in the schedule to allow the Western Conference finals matchup between the Los Angeles Lakers and Denver Nuggets to catch up; the Lakers and Nuggets were to play the third game in their series Tuesday night.

Celtics forward Jayson Tatum offered a simple reason why Boston should be able to keep its edge after a win.

"Because we're still down 2-1," Tatum said. "It's never time to relax in a series until it's over with. Even more sense of urgency when you're down. We're still losing. We know that. We won't get it all back in one game. We just got to go one game at a time."

Not that this one needs explaining, but Miami's chances go up considerably in this series if the Heat find a way to win Game 4. The Heat are 11-0 in series where they lead 3-1, and 9-9 in series where it's tied 2-2 after four games. The Celtics haven't successfully overcome a 3-1 deficit since the 1981 East finals.

Dodgers top NL West; Braves claim East

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Corey Seager had three hits, including one of Los Angeles' four home runs, as the Dodgers clinched the National League's top postseason seed and eighth straight West title Tuesday night with a 7-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

The Dodgers, who own the best record in the majors at 39-16, were the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff berth on Sept. 16. They will open postseason play on Sept. 30 by hosting every game in a best-of-three series against the No. 8 seed.

Los Angeles came into the day with a magic number of two and got help with the Angels' 4-2 victory over the San Diego Padres.

Max Muncy, Chris Taylor and AJ Pollock also went deep for Los Angeles, which leads the majors with 104 home runs.

Dustin May (2-1) went five innings and allowed two runs on three hits.

Robbie Grossman homered for Oakland, which clinched its first AL West crown in seven years on Monday during a day off.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Corey Seager, left, tosses the ball to second baseman Chris Taylor to put out Oakland Athletics' Mark Canha on a grounder by Jake Lamb during the sixth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Indians 5, White Sox 3

Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning, giving Cleveland a win over Chicago that clinched a postseason berth.

Ramirez's drive off Jose Ruiz scored Cesar Hernandez and Francisco Lindor, setting off a wild celebration at home plate as the Indians reached the postseason for the fourth time in five years.

Braves 11, Marlins 1

Bryse Wilson pitched five scoreless innings, Marcell Ozuna drove in five runs with four hits that included two homers and Atlanta clinched its third straight NL East title.

Atlanta hit five homers, including drives by Dansby Swanson and Freddie Freeman off Nick Vincent in a five-run seventh.

Yankees 12, Blue Jays 1

Gerrit Cole limited Toronto to five hits over seven innings in his final preparation for the playoffs, and Aaron Hicks drove in three runs in a rout over the Blue Jays.

Cole (7-3) struck out seven and walked none, inducing 11 ground-ball outs and 14 swings and misses. His one mistake was Cavan Biggio's sole homer in the fourth.

Brewers 3, Reds 2

Tyrone Taylor homered, Eric Sogard doubled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, and Milwaukee rallied over Cincinnati.

Taylor had a solo shot off Sonny Gray. Milwaukee rallied against Tejay Antone (0-3), who gave up Daniel Vogelbach's single and Jedd Gyorko's double to open the seventh. Orlando Arcia tied it with a sacrifice fly to deep center, and Sogard doubled down the line in left field for a 3-2 lead.

Nationals 5, Phillies 1, Game 1
Nationals 8, Phillies 7, Game 1

Philadelphia tumbled out of a playoff position, getting swept in a doubleheader by Washington when Yadiel Hernandez hit a game-ending, two-run homer in eighth inning off Brandon Workman (1-4) in the second game.

In the first game, Aaron Nola (5-4) allowed five runs—three earned—in six innings.

Pirates 3, Cubs 2

Jacob Stallings hit a solo home run in the bottom of the ninth inning and Pittsburgh stalled Chicago's bid to win the NL Central.

The Cubs began the day with a 4 +-game lead over St. Louis and Cincinnati in the division standings and a magic number of four to clinch the title.

Mets 5, Rays 2

Pete Alonso and the Mets prevented Tampa Bay from clinching the AL East crown, beating the Rays behind three home runs and Seth Lugo's bounce-back pitching performance.

Robinson Cano, Alonso and Guillermo Heredia went deep for the Mets.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 3

Nick Pivetta struck out eight in five innings of one-run ball in his Boston debut and Christian Vazquez hit a three-run homer in a win over Baltimore.

Cardinals 5, Royals 0

Austin Gomber tossed six innings of four-hit ball in a crucial spot start and St. Louis capitalized on some erratic pitching from Brady Singer, beating Kansas City.

Twins 5, Tigers 4

Max Kepler hit the tying home run in the eighth inning and the game-winning single with two outs in the 10th, giving Minnesota a victory over Detroit that tightened the AL Central race.

Diamondbacks 7, Rangers 0

Carson Kelly had a three-run homer, Caleb Smith and Riley Smith combined to throw a six-hitter and Arizona blanked Texas.

David Peralta had three hits. Eduardo Escobar added two singles and Nick Ahmed had a triple.

Angels 4, Padres 2

Max Stassi had two impressive home runs among his four hits, Griffin Canning struck out 10 in six innings and the Angels beat punchless playoff-bound San Diego.

The loss, plus St. Louis' 5-0 win at Kansas City, kept the Padres from clinching the NL's No. 4 seed in the playoffs.

Astros 6, Mariners 1

Martin Maldonado hit a three-run home run, Framber Valdez struck out eight to set career highs for wins and strikeouts, and Houston beat Seattle to close in on its fourth straight playoff berth.

Giants 5, Rockies 2

Pinch-hitter Alex Dickerson hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh, Austin Slater also connected, and San Francisco beat Colorado to stay right in the playoff race.

San Francisco is one of four teams chasing the final two NL playoff spots. Philadelphia (27-29) lost its fourth straight game to fall behind Cincinnati (28-28), Milwaukee (27-27) and the Giants (27-27).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Tampa Bay	36	20	.643	0.0
x-NY Yankees	32	23	.582	3.5
Toronto	28	27	.509	7.5
Baltimore	23	32	.418	12.5
Boston	14.5	21	34	.382
Central				
x-Chi White Sox	34	21	.618	0.0
x-Minnesota	34	22	.607	0.5
x-Cleveland	31	24	.564	3.0
Detroit	22	31	.415	11.0
Kansas City	22	33	.400	12.0
West				
y-Oakland	33	21	.611	0.0
Houston	28	27	.509	5.5
LA Angels	25	31	.446	9.0
Seattle	24	31	.436	9.5
Texas	19	36	.345	14.5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East				
y-Atlanta	33	22	.600	0.0
Miami	28	27	.509	5.0
Philadelphia	27	29	.482	6.5
NY Mets	25	30	.455	8.0
Washington	23	32	.418	10.0
Central				
Chi Cubs	32	23	.582	0.0
St. Louis	27	25	.519	3.5
Cincinnati	28	28	.500	4.5
Milwaukee	27	27	.500	4.5
Pittsburgh	16	39	.291	16.0
West				
y-LA Dodgers	39	16	.709	0.0
x-San Diego	34	21	.618	5.0
San Francisco	27	27	.500	11.5
Colorado	24	30	.444	14.5
Arizona	21	34	.382	18.0

x- clinched playoff spot
y- clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

USMNT to face No. 1 seed Mexico twice in World Cup qualifier

NEW YORK— The Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football's summer is going to be red-hot as its top sides will scrap multiple times on the road to World Cup qualifying.

In other words, we might see the USMNT meet Mexico twice in a month.

The USMNT, Mexico, Honduras, and Costa Rica are among the group of sides waiting to see who advances from the postponed first stage of CONCACAF World Cup qualifying. The final round of World Cup qualifying had already been postponed.

It was revealed Tuesday that the quartet will now play the first ever CONCACAF Nations League Finals in June, three months behind schedule and just before the 2021 Gold Cup.

The Gold Cup was previously postponed to June 10–July 1 and the draw is set for Monday.

The Nations League semifinals see No. 1 seed Mexico against No. 4 Costa Rica and the No. 2 Catrachos of Honduras meeting the third-seeded USMNT.

A U.S. Soccer Federation release said the move is to put the focus on first stage of qualifying (It also gives all of the participants more time to figure out the pandemic atmosphere if it, as anticipated, reaches into a second year dramatically affecting sporting competitions):

This official competition Finals event will take place in a centralized location in the United States in June 2021. CONCACAF will now work with our stakeholders to finalize the location and specific dates for this competition.

Playing this competition in June 2021 will enable the First Round of the Concacaf Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup, which involve 30 Concacaf Member Associations, to take center stage in March 2021.

CONCACAF remains in discussions with FIFA to agree a new schedule for the qualfiiers which retains the current format.

U.S. Soccer also announced that it will not play any matches or train in the October international break, aiming for a November return. That means Christian Pulisic will have even more time to find top form for Chelsea.

General manager Brian McBride says Gregg Berhalter's group may have an additional December camp with its January camp, which is great news for MLS players hoping to cement their statuses in Berhalter's mind while the European talent continues to play overseas.

"After extensive conversations about holding a men's national team camp in October, we ultimately determined the unique challenges created by COVID-19 as it relates to hosting international opponents and getting our players together wouldn't allow us to move forward," McBride said. "While we won't have the team together in this upcoming window, we are making considerable progress for November." ***(AP/NBC)***

Poll leaders Chiefs, Ravens cross paths early

NEW YORK (AP)—Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson are two of the NFL's most dynamic young players.

They also are the league's last two regular-season Most Valuable Players.

Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs are the defending Super Bowl champs and Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens, who finished with the top regular-season record last season, hope to get past them and reach the Super Bowl this season.

Both teams are off to 2-0 starts this season and kept the top two spots in this week's AP Pro32 poll.

The Chiefs received seven of 12 first-place votes for 379 points in balloting Tuesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL. The Ravens got the other five first-place votes for 376 points. The Ravens gained three first-place votes from last week to narrow the gap on the Chiefs.

The teams will meet Monday night in the top matchup of Week 3 and a possible preview of the AFC championship game.

"We'll enjoy this on our plane ride home, and then we'll be focused on the Chiefs," Baltimore running back Mark Ingram said after a 33-16 rout in Houston. "They're the defending champs, and we know we're going to have to play our best football, put our best foot forward in order to get a W."

AP
Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, right, is tackled by Los Angeles Chargers defensive end Joey Bosa, center, during the second half of an NFL game Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, in Inglewood, Calif.

The Seattle Seahawks moved up a spot to No. 3 after holding on for a 35-30 victory over the New England Patriots. Despite the loss on the road, the Patriots did not lose any ground and remained at No. 8.

The Green Bay Packers also inched up one place to No. 4 after handling the Detroit Lions 42-21. The Packers will try to go to 3-0 as they head to the Big Easy to face the New Orleans Saints on Sunday night.

"It's been a lot of fun," Packers running back Aaron Jones said Monday of his team's potent offense so far. "You come out as an offense, and that's what you want to do. You want to put points up, you want to score a lot of points, you want to be clicking on all cylinders and just having it run smooth."

The Saints had the biggest drop in the poll, falling from No. 3 to No. 10, after blowing an early 10-point lead and losing 34-24 in the Raiders' first game in Las Vegas on Monday night.

The AFC East-leading Buffalo Bills jumped two spots to No. 5 after edging the Miami Dolphins 31-28. The Bills will host the No. 7 Los Angeles Rams on Sunday in the other matchup of 2-0 teams. The Rams also gained two spots after handling the Philadelphia Eagles 37-19.

The Eagles dropped two spots to No. 23 and host the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday in the only Week 3 matchup of 0-2 teams.

The Pittsburgh Steelers stayed at No. 6 after topping the Denver Broncos. They host their second consecutive winless opponent when the Houston Texans visit Heinz Field in the "Watt Bowl." Texans defensive end J.J. Watt will face brothers T.J. and Derek Watt of the Steelers.

NMI

From Page 20

an exhibition scramble at the old baseball field in Susupe where the Joeten- Kiyu Library now sits. One of the participants was Jesse Stein. He led the group that was part of the entertainment events during a Liberation Day celebration around 1968 or so. I never forgot the noise and rumble of those motorcycles as they circled the field that day," Sablan said.

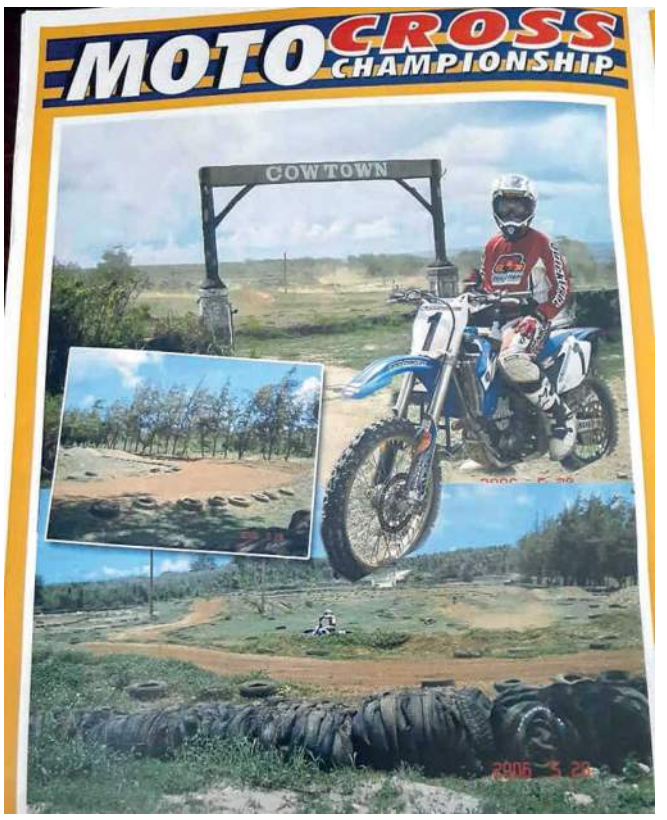
After moving to the mainland, Sablan returned to Saipan anew in the late 1980s—the time when motorcycle club on Saipan had grown and riders were no longer utilizing a cow pasture and were instead racing on a real track called the People's Park (Capitol Hill area).

"I saw many families and riders' supporters attend races almost every Sunday. The governor at the time was Carlos Camacho who had attended a few of the races as he was quite a fan. There was a big mini bike class of some 20 riders. Each of those riders had multiple family members that were present to cheer, support, and assist them. It was always a big outing," said Sablan.

Sablan raced at the People's Park on a Honda 125, courtesy of United Micronesia Development Association, and faced a track that used an all-natural terrain with huge downhill jumps and high-speed winding uphill runs.

The course was obviously a challenge for Sablan, but he conquered the track through the help of the late Joey Togawa.

"Joey saw that I was having trouble with that section of the track which he had pretty good command of. It was the double jump that measured approximately 40-plus feet from point to point. From my perspective it looked more like 100 feet at the time. He patiently explained the speed I would need to be at and what gear that bike should be in order for me to clear the double. After several attempts and near misses I cleared it. Unfortunately, we lost Joey in the early 1980s. He was my best friend. He is in every motocross racers' heart," Sablan said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CowTown Raceway and a local rider appeared in the cover page of the souvenir program for Marianas Racing Association's 2016 Motocross Championship.

From People's Park to CowTown

The People's Park eventually closed after residents circulated a petition to cease the activities at the raceway.

However, Sablan never lost interest in motocross and in 1995 started forming a group to revive the sport with the help of Cuki Alvarez and Norman Del Rosario. Sablan and Alvarez worked on the technical side of the races, while Del Rosario helped in marketing the sport.

The group went on to organize four big international races every year in Marpi (the Kan Pacific pool side) with races spread into three days and thousands of fans trooping the venue to watch local and international riders.

For the second time, motocross' home had to be closed, as the Marpi area was not legally designated as a race track.

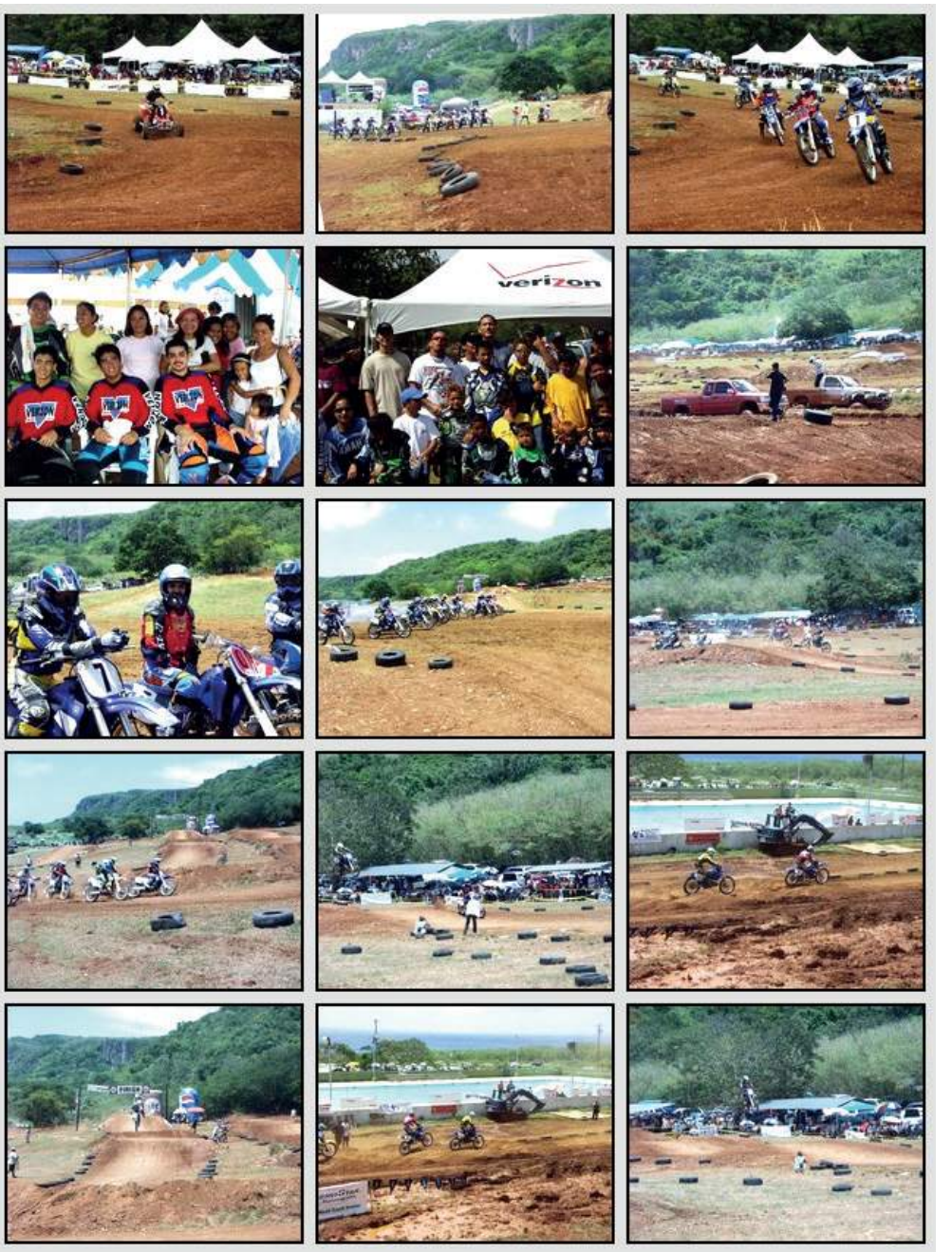
"We had to remove all the soil and return the area to its original condition after each event until the following year. We basically organized a race and built a track to be used for only 3 days," Sablan said.

After back-to-back heartaches, the motocross community finally acquired a land suitable for its races and other activities through the help of the Department of Community and Cultural Affair, which was then under the leadership of Juan L. Babauta.

"CowTown was handed over to the Marianas Racing Association. Our club president, Eric Cruz, got to work right away and organized our members to clear the road to the location so that he could get his heavy equipment into the area to prepare the site for our track. Although our permission to use the area was on a year to year basis, we felt it had more permanence than what we had before," Sablan said.

CowTown was home to MRA for a decade before the group suspended activities in 2007 due to economic challenges, according to Sablan, and the property was reverted back to the Department of Public Lands.

Today MRA is building up interest in motocross anew by holding weekend practice races at the Marpi area. The group is also working on getting back the CowTown Raceway to provide riders an appropriate track and give motocross fans the exciting shows that they have been missing for more than 10 years.



NORMAN DEL ROSARIO
A collage of photos during the Verizon Motocross Championship 2002 at Kan Pacific in Marpi.

Nuggets hang on in Game 3, cut Lakers' lead

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dodgers top NL West; Braves claim East

PAGE 18

NMI motocross: From pasture to track

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A video grab shows Marianas Racing Association riders working the race course in Marpi during the group's weekend session early this month.

Did you know that before the People's Park and the CowTown Raceway, motocross riders in the CNMI used to race in a cow pasture?

In their bid to revive motocross on the islands, Marianas Racing Association president Steve P. Sablan went back to memory lane, recalling his first race on Saipan in a meadow on a loaned bike before he got a sponsor for his races on island and in Guam.

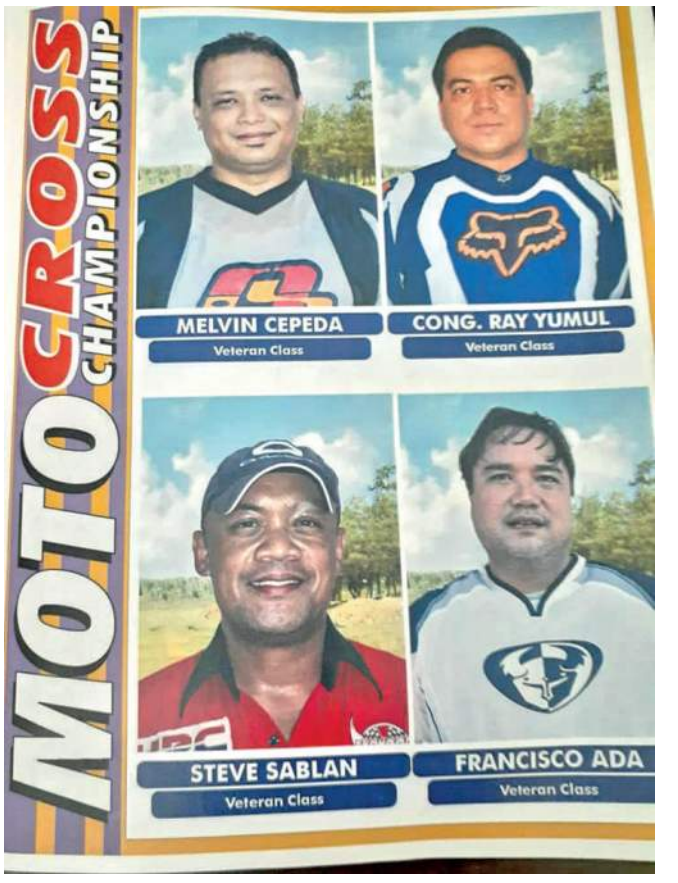
"I returned to Saipan in the late 1970s for a two-week summer break and found that Saipan's motocross scene was alive and well. Mr. Ray Alvarez organized the club which had quite a few riders at the time. There was a track at the Santos farm in Papago near Kagman Mobil. It was actually a cow pasture. The track had evidence of the inhabitants everywhere," said Sablan.

The MRA head managed to join the race, thanks to Joe Flores, who offered his motorcycle and riding gear to the Sablan.

"That weekend I competed against people that I had not known before and who would become lifelong friends to this day. The late senator Joaquin Adriano was also in the class that I raced and I recalled that he was very impressive. He was always a smooth rider, which is hard to do on a big motorcycle that is always trying to toss you off like a rodeo bull," Sablan said.

The race on the cow pasture was not Sablan's first rodeo, as he had been riding in Guam through the help of his friends. He also assembled bikes during the summer at Island Cyclery, which was owned Mr. Henry Simpson and his familiarity with motocross and the bikes led him to getting a sponsorship ride from Roman Ayuyu.

"I rode a 1973 Honda 125 Elsinore. It was my first real taste of racing. After two years, I eventually moved to the mainland where for four years I lost almost all connection with the sport of motocross, except for the occasional drive by a motorcycle shop where a few dirt bikes were on display in the town where I lived," Sablan said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Racing Association president Steve Sablan is seen here in the souvenir program for a race event in 2006.

Back where he belongs

No matter how many times he took breaks from motocross, Sablan always finds himself getting back to it. It was just like how he first heard of the sport and the sight and sound of motorcycles kept playing on his mind.

"I fell in love with motorcycles at an early age when a group of motorcyclists from Guam came to Saipan and had

See NMI on Page 19

Contests for college students still on

The Northern Mariana Islands College Sport, a committee under the Northern Marianas Sports Association, in partnership with the Northern Marianas College and FISU Oceania is calling all college student-athletes to post photos or videos of them playing sports for a chance to win several prizes.

The photo/video competition is held as the CNMI joins other FISU (Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire) members in celebrating the International Day of University Sports. FISU designated Sept. 20 as International Day of University Sports, but the Northern Mariana Islands College Sport and NMC are observing a week-long celebration.

Besides the video/photo contests, college student-athletes can also compete in the basketball free throw challenge and soccer juggling. Participants must post a video of their free throw shooting and soccer juggling at the Northern Mariana Islands College Sport's Facebook or Instagram accounts. The player with the most free throws made in one minute wins, while the athlete that juggles the soccer ball the longest (maximum of one minute) prevails. Winners will get Yeti waterbottle, Hydroflask waterbottle, Garmin watch, wireless headphones, basketball, soccer ball, yoga mats, and others. Interested participants have only until tomorrow (11:59pm), Sept. 25, to submit their entries. ***(Saipan Tribune).***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
One of the entries to the photo contest shows women paddlers aboard a canoe getting ready for a training session at Kilili Beach.